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GENEALOGY COLLECTION

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BIG DRY COUNTRY
by Geneva Highland

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BILLINGS, MONTANA

Now that my eldest granddaughter models a coat that I wore nearly fifty years ago, I begin to think 'Time's a wastin'.'

This big dry country has fascinated me since my parents brought me here when I was four years old. We'd been living on Baker Creek in the Gallatin Valley and Dad's farm was flooded seven times in three years. That experience was never repeated here!

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2 1/2
5- The Big Dry was named by Lewis and Clark in 1805, as they struggled up the Missouri in small boats to explore the Louisiana Purchase. Nobody ever thought of a more appropriate handle.

This stream and its tributaries drains perhaps three-fourths of Garfield County and a part of Prairie and McCone counties, also. And if you are really technical about big dry country it often extends from the far north wheat fields of Canada, all the way 'cross the U. S. A. and into old Mexico.....

Even as once the buffalo ranged across all this vast big dry country grazing on abundant sun-dried native grasses; they were succeeded by trail herds from Texas, New Mexico, Oklahoma and California pushing forward toward the North Star to feed on land not over-grazed. That time is gone but the custom combiner follows modern highways north, harvesting all the way, sometimes finishing in Montana and Canada in September, and hurrying south when frost comes to enjoy warmer weather and the maize harvest.

I like riding here, watching the changing contours of hills, valleys, sagebrush, the rock sheepherder monuments, the cattle, horses and sheep grazing, and most of all, watching the mule and whitetail deer we often see.

Always, I've liked the people here, striving against wind, storm and drouth; their friendliness and good will, their courage in adversity; their respect for the individual; these people are the salt of the earth.

For THEM this little chronicle was written.

1550932

of the
Baker Creek

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Chapter I, Book: Wild Animal Roundup by William T. Hornaday, published by Charles Scribner's Sons, 1925; Newspaper: Western Livestock Reporter, Published at Billings, Montana on July 2, 1947; Article by Montana Lou Grill; Letters from: Mr. and Mrs. Wes Huston, Hardin, Montana, Mr. and Mrs. Jack McNaney, Glendive, Montana, Vivian Hooker, Glendive, Montana, H. B. Kelley, Frankton, Indiana, Edna Saylor, Brusett, Montana, Hazel Gibson, Mosby, Montana, Gertrude Slaughter, Wolf Point, Montana, Margie Wagner, Great Falls, Montana, Mrs. Clem Larson, Sand Springs, Montana; Interviews with: Mrs. Elvira Ryan, Mrs. Susie Huston, Amy Crane of Brusett, Montana; Sam Witt, Bridger, Montana; Frank Witt, John Coston, Sand Springs, Montana; W. G. Roberts, Lewistown, Montana.

Chapter II, Books: History of Montana, Volume II by Merrill G. Burlingame and K. Ross Toole, The Conquest of the Missouri by Joseph Mills Hanson, Murray Hill Books, Inc., New York, 1946; Records in the office of Clerk and Recorder, Garfield County, Jordan, Montana; Letter from Mrs. DeEtta Edwards, Haxby, Montana.

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Bridges, Oswego, Montana; Letters from Shirley Bridges, Oswego, Montana; Mrs. Jessie Walton, Fort Peck, Montana; Jack McNaney, son of Jim McNaney, Glendive, Montana; mimeographed copy of Montana Backgrounds by Extension Course, 1953, Northern Montana College, Havre, Montana.

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Chapter IX Report of Brevet Brigadier General W. F. Reynolds on Exploration of Yellowstone and the Country drained by that River, Senate Ex. Doc. No. 77, 40 Cong. 2 Sess. The map which accompanies this report shows all the land between the Missouri and Yellowstone. It is interesting to note from the map how sketchy the exploration had been--the Musselshell is shown as turning eastward where it does not in the vicinity of Mosby--and the Big Dry is sketched as being much farther south than it really is, Smoky Butte has apparently not been sighted--but Church and Round Buttes near the Missouri are marked in. Had this map photographed but it did not reproduce well enough to include in this book. The Montana Frontier by Merrill G. Burlingame, State Publishing Company, Helena, 1942; Chapter "From Fort Benton, River Capital by Alton B. Oviatt in A History of Montana by Merrill G. Burlingame and K. Ross Toole, Vol. I. Lewis Historical Publishing Co., Inc. 1957; Interviews with Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Allen, Mrs. Josephine Ginther, Frances Hauso, Mrs. H. M. West; Letter from Mrs. Clem Larson.

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Chapter XXIV: Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Allen interviewed Mr. Anderson. Interview with Mrs. Ruth Anderson Trumbo, Jordan.

Chapter XXV: Letter from Mr. W. R. Woodson of Lewistown.

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Chapter XXVIII Garfield County maps; Records in Office of Clerk and Recorder, Clara Bragg, Jordan, Interviews with Mr. and Mrs. Billy McRae, Miles City and late C. F. Schultz.

Chapter XXIX Letter from Mr. Horace Gamas, Glasgow.

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Chapter XXXI Interviews with and Letters from: Paul Anderson, Forsyth; Horace Gamas, Glasgow; Margie Wagner, Great Falls, Ethel Welborn and Frances Hauso, Brusett; Charles Allen, Violet Tobel, Archie and Leitha McDonald, DeEtta Edwards, Jordan; Mrs. Lee Roy, Seattle; mimeographed copy of Montana Backgrounds, Extension Class 1953, Northern Montana College, Havre.

Chapter XXXII Alex Innes, William McRae of Miles City; Mr. and Mrs. Charles Allen, Mrs. Barnes, Sr. of Jordan; Articles in issues of Jordan Tribune; W. G. Roberts of Lewistown; H. B. Kelley, Frankton, Indiana; Mrs. Lee Roy, Seattle; Mrs. Waldo Bentley and Mr. and Mrs. K. L. Butts, Brusett; Mrs. Darwin Scott, Sand Springs; Dr. Allan Mackenzie, Lewistown; Bob Eldridge, Van Norman were interviewed or answered letters.

Chapter XXXIII Pamphlet published by Northern Pacific about Garfield County.

Chapter XXXIV Letters by Mrs. Marie Simonsen, Saco; Mrs. Myrtle French, Jordan; Mrs. Mary Matovich, Absarokee; Interviews with: the late Mrs. Opha Barnes; the late Mrs. John Osborn.

Chapter XXXV Interviews: Mr. and Mrs. Whit Newland, Jordan; the late Mrs. Nellie Kinney; Helen Gibbs, Jordan; Amy Crane, Brusett; Ruby Hughes, Hot Springs; Mrs. S. C. Witt, Bridger; Letters from: Jean Hollenbeck, Eureka; John Hubbard, Redding, Calif.; Mrs. Lee Roy, Seattle

Chapter XXXVI Mrs. Ben Wilson, Brusett; S. C. Witt, Bridger; Mrs. Olive Tindall, _____ Carolina were interviewed. Jean Armbruster Hollenbeck wrote a letter.

Chapter XXXVII Book: Plains, Peaks and Pioneers by Edward L. Mills, Metropolitan Press, Portland, Oregon, 1947; Miles City Star, Anniversary Edition (75th); Interviews with: Albert H. Kruse, Helena; Mrs. Martin Hillard, Wilsall, Ruth Butts, Brusett, Doris Mart, Jordan; Mrs. Olive Tindall, _____ North Carolina; Ethel Welborn, Sand Springs, Mrs. Ruth Ofstedal, Jordan; I received prepared memoranda from Mrs. George Hensleigh, Jordan, Rev. Andrew Kubic, Jr., Jordan, and Rev. M. J. Strandberg. Letter from Margie Wagner, Great Falls.

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Chapter XXXIX Information about these post offices came from: Mrs. S. C. Witt, Mrs. Alice Johnson, John Town of Bridger; Mrs. Olive Tindall, North Carolina; Mrs. Lee Roy, Seattle; Mrs. Gladys Hilton, Mesa, Arizona; Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Kelley, Frankton, Indiana; Mrs. Ruth Bentley, Ellendale, North Dakota; Mrs. Marion L. Harris, Brandon, Oregon; Mary Clark Dawson, Sandpoint, Idaho; Charles Pestka, Cary Zook, Margie Owens of Cohagen; Ethel Phelps, DeEtta Edwards, Mrs. Barnes, Sr., H. M. West, Mrs. Fred Kibler, Mrs. Herman Rogge of Jordan; the late Orlando

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Chapter XL Old Copy of Sand Springs News; copies of Jordan Tribune and Jordan Times; letter from David L. Watson of Deeming, New Mexico; Letter from Margie Wagner, Great Falls.

Chapter XLI Mrs. Sara Zimmerman wrote down the history of the Green Trail Club; Mrs. Olive Tindall was interviewed about the Homemakers Club.

Chapter XLII Letter from William M. Hanlon

Chapter XLIII Brand Book 1885-86; Trails I Rode by Con Price; Mrs. Huston interviewed Joe Dutton for me.

Chapter XLIV Montana Brand Book 1885-86

Chapter XLV Back Trailing in the Heart of the Short Grass Country by John O. Bye, Lithographed by Alexander Printing Company, 1956, Everett, Washington; Letter from John Town, Bridger; Interview, Ida Wallace McPhail, Jordan.

Chapter XLVI Wild Animal Roundup by William T. Hornaday, published by Charles Scribner's Sons, 1925
Montana Brand Book 1885-6

Chapter XLVII Interviews with Vivian Hooker, Glendive, Mrs. John Davis, Jordan

Chapter XLVIII Records in office of Clerk and Recorder, Jordan, news items in The Jordan Tribune; Interviews with: Sid Hauso, Katryn Huston, Glen Beecher, Brusett; DeEtta Edwards and Alfred Haney, Jordan; Mrs. Faye Buffington, Fromberg

Chapter XLVIX Summary of a report in a Stockgrowers' Magazine. Precipitation Record from books of A. E. Hebrew, Volunteer Weather Observer at Brusett, Montana

Garfield County Valuations Office of County Assessor,
Jordan, Montana

Montana Loves By Mrs. Ida B. Kelley

These have I loved:

The smell of sage fresh crushed,
In hot sunshine: the cabin of logs
Set against the pine crowned hill
Its low walls and dirt covered roof blending with earth
The odor of pine on the warm spring day
The dripping of rain- the lark's song later.
The morning chorus of the birds
Happy at their nest-building-then
The wee birds- with open mouths,
Rainbows and the blue of distant hills
Sunsets- behind the ancient dead pine, wonderful
Flowers in spring- after the long snows of winter
The snows themselves virgin white at night against
the black pine shadows.
The great friendly silver moon- the northern lights
Flashing- while the gaunt gray coyote
Voices his eternal plaint of hunger to the skies.
These have I loved.

Prairie dogs, bare buttes, Coulees at night
Locusts in cotton-woods, Smell of cockleburrs
Alfalfa- ice going out, riding in rain
Hail-storm, fog, frost-fog
Trees heavy with frost-fog
Sun on snow, cactus-blooms, owl at night,
THESE HAVE I LOVED

Chapter I, Ridin', Ropin', Trappin'

The men who have been doing the riding and roping of the West except on the TV and movie screens are a hardy and versatile lot, bent on keeping their hand in at their chosen life work no matter what their material.

Ben Rogers roped a buffalo calf on Sand Creek in 1898. It was with three cows. A man named Bill Dundon also roped a buffalo calf about 1900 on Lodgepole Creek about where the Benzien post office used to be. Both men enjoyed the buffalo meat..

A year or two ago a rancher here roped an antelope and got off his horse to tie it up with his belt. He came to wish he'd saved that loop for he was ricked real efficiently by the hooves of this prairie racer and his clothes were ready for patching.

A OK cowboy roped a deer on Flat Creek about 1910.

A rancher roped two deer during fall roundup on a lare and promptly turned them loose.

Harry Miller, while hunting with hounds, ran a bobcat up on a sandrock ledge on a hill top that was really too steep for the hounds. Harry roped the cat and things livened up for the bobcat came down the rope FAST and jumped on the horse behind the saddle. The horse didn't care for carrying double so he bucked with enthusiasm while the cat clawed a little and it kept Harry busy letting go of the cat and retaining his seat.

Faye Buffington once roped a gray wolf who was, at once, very much "on the fight." It turned, snarling, and ran after Faye and his horse instead of going the other way. Faye let out all the slack of his rope and wondered what to do next. There was a jackpine not far off and he fastened his horse in that direction and then took a couple of swift turns around the tree to halt the progress of the gray wolf, then jumped off his horse and left him to stand while he hunted a good-sized club and finished off the lobo.

Faye also roped a bobcat on the Missouri River when

it was iced over and dragged the cat snarling to the river bank and then through the sagebrush nearby with the bobcat grabbing sagebrush and pulling branches of it as he was pulled along.

Bill Cherry killed the last wolf seen in the Black-foot country.

In 1918, the last pack of gray wolves was killed in the Brunelda country. An old government trapper stayed with Harold Wagner a few days to hunt wolves. He came in one night with five wolf scalps. He had ridden up on them all in a draw and was able to shoot the quintet.

Wes Huston tells this story of getting a wolf on Lodgepole. He had stopped in to see Jack Lane who was feeding a hospital bunch of sheep at the lower Shorey place. Jack said a wolf had been coming around almost every night and perhaps Wes could get him with the three hounds he had along.

They fixed a place for the dogs in a vacant room and sat around telling tales waiting for the wolf. Wes said he finally gave up and got ready for bed. The country was covered with snow which had melted that day and just before sunset the temperature turned cold and froze the snow in little sharp points. The moon had come up, when Wes took another look out the window he saw the wolf between the house and hay stack. Wes jerked sheep pacs on his bare feet, called the hounds and went out the door after the wolf. The dogs ran beside him but would not go past him.

The wolf let Wes get almost up to him before he moved, but he finally went galloping down the creek with Wes following and still the dogs followed Wes instead of preceding him. Wes quit when he found the sharp ice had cut the soles out of his snow pacs and he was standing barefoot in the snow with the snow pacs up around his ankles. Jack Lane came out and carried the barefoot lad back to the house.

While Jim McNaney and Hank Cusker (Kusker) were working for the N-Bar-N (Home Land and Cattle Co.) about 1888 they were considered the most daring of the dare-devil cowboys.

Hank occasionally rode wild steers as a pastime and one day on the range he and Jim McNaney were trailing seventy-five head of horses to the home ranch. They were riding two of their best horses and had a gentle pack horse along.

They had crossed the head of Shade Creek and nothing unusual had happened. The bunch of horses were well ahead of them going up a long slope and when they topped the hill the bunch of horses jumped, snorted, and came rushing back down the hill in a stampede.

The cowboys guessed that bear on the other side of the hill might have caused the panic, as nothing frightens horses like bear.

They found four grizzlies over the hill and having their guns in the bedrolls on the packhorse, now far gone, they decided to rope two bears.

The biggest was a mother bear with a cub and there were two other grizzlies not full grown.

The cowboys chased the bears and when the cub couldn't keep up with the old bear she turned on Hank and his horse and Hank raced the other way with the old mother bear hitting at his horses tail at nearly every jump. When Hank lost his hat the old bear grabbed and tore it to shreds and soon went off down Shade Creek with her cub.

The cowboys then chased the other two and when McNaney roped one by the hind leg the bear sat down and pulled the rope off with his front paws and then was roped by McNaney around the neck.

The bear rolled backwards, clawed the rope, bawled and kicked and drug heavier than any beef steer.

Cusker, who had ridden wild steers, horses and mules times without number, roped the other bear 'round the neck, ran his horse on the rope so hard it gave the bear a terrible jerk and almost broke its neck.

The bear couldn't fight then and Cusker got off his horse, leaving bear dragging at end of rope and the horse backing away, very much scared.

Cusker walked over toward where McNaney was working to control his horse and the bear he'd roped and said he couldn't get any fun out of his bear and McNaney suggested Cusker take over his bear. Hank replied he had ridden most animals except grizzly bear and that he would ride Jim's bear. So McNaney started his horse to dragging the bear and Hank Cusker slipped up behind and jumped on the bear and dug in with his spurs.

And Bear-----gave a growl, like swearing and reached up with one hind foot, then the other and tore off Cusker's pant legs and underwear.

And Cusker had enough and piled off and started running.

Having the bear so riled up, they couldn't let him off the rope. The one Cusker had roped and jerked was dead and Cusker mounted his horse, roped the bear he'd tried to ride around hind legs and the two cowboys stretched him out between their horses until he choked to death.

The two hadn't had enough bear-----They wanted bear steaks, so they bled and partly skinned the bear and went eight miles to catch the frightened horses. They caught the packhorse Judge, who had to be blindfolded to get him near enough the bears to load them and the bearskins.

When the cowboys got on their horses the bear smell lingered on them and the horses bucked and bucked and the horses in the loose herd ran the fifteen miles to the home corral with Judge loaded with bear after them. When Judge ran in the corral the horses stampeded out of the corral and later some were found on the Porcupine a hundred miles away.

Hard it is to say who did the best riding and for what cause: for fun, for business or to save someone's life. True it is that most westerners want a cowpony or mustang for everyday work or a hard task instead of a blooded eastern horse. Perhaps the men and boys who rode the horses have had just as much stamina as the horses they rode.

When it comes to endurance rides there may have been none locally to compare with that made by Black Elk, a Cheyenne Indian. Back in the days of General Miles, Black Elk rode 120 miles to get help from other Indians to take a stand against the military. Then he rode back to his starting point on the same horse. Both man and horse were in good condition after their 240 mile trip.

Brim Barrett had Guy Tibbetts ride a horse from his ranch on Lone Tree to Ingomar to get a doctor when one of his daughters was gravely ill. The horse died after the eighty-mile trip.

In an official endurance race held in 1947 over the 153 mile distance between Billings and Miles City, Montana, Bucky, an eight-year old buckskin owned by Clem Larson of Sand Springs and ridden by Merle Helyer, took first money over a field of fifty-three horses with a time of nineteen hours, thirteen minutes and fourteen seconds actual riding time.

Clem himself once made a forty-mile ride to Ingomar after he felt his appendix burst and caught the slow train to Miles City and the hospital. Seems like that was the most miserable ride Clem ever made.

Montana Lou Grill told of a drive that Jim McNaney, ferryman on the Yellowstone at Miles City, made in 1898 that was a classic of speed. A cowboy came to Miles for a doctor for Mrs. Corey Wilson who lived twenty-two miles from the ferry. When the doctor got to the ferry en route to the very sick woman driving a livery stable team, it took no urging to get McNaney to hook up his team of long-winded race horses to take the doctor on to the patient.

The doctor later stated that the time consumed in making the trip of twenty-two miles was one hour and thirty minutes.

Trick roping and practical jokes seem to be avocations of many cowboys.

John Winter spent one winter in Hawaii riding and trick roping and he found that easy indeed to endure after Montana and Wyoming winters taking care of cattle.

Fort Peck was established by low water in 1865. A party of men who were enroute to Fort Benton with a load of merchandise on the steamer Tacony, were stranded at this point a few miles above the mouth of the Milk River because the river was too low for the Tacony to go further.

Making the best of this situation, they landed their goods, put up some log buildings and began trade with the Indians.

When winter came, they put up ice and during the next summer they gave free ice water to all the Indians who came to their post. This beverage became very popular at once with the red men and they came from every direction in such numbers to Fort Peck that these traders had almost more business than they could handle.

It is really too bad that more traders did not put out ice water to the Indians instead of the firewater liquor which made them crazy and evil-acting.

Now, almost a hundred years later, almost everyone who lives in the Fort Peck region, gets their ice water from electric power from the great Fort Peck dam built in the 1930's which backs water up the Missouri River 180 miles and has buried most of the old landmarks beneath its water.

Fort Peck was the original county seat of Dawson County when it was created from the northern part of Big Horn County in January, 1869. The county seat was moved to Glendive in September, 1881. At this time, Montana was still a territory and did not become a state until November, 1889.

Seemingly there was very little county seat business carried on during those years when Fort Peck was officially chosen as County Seat of Dawson County. In the part of Dawson that became Garfield County, the first recorded instruments were in October, 1885 when Henry and Zeke Newman of the Niobrara Cattle Company, N, and twenty-six cowboys filed declaratory statements on 160 acres each on the Big Dry and Sand Creek, and each cowboy the same day filed quit claim deeds to Zeke Newman on the same.

Hawley, Hubble and Company had purchased the interests of Pierre Choteau, Jr. and Co. in 1865 and had styled themselves as the Northwestern Fur Company until about 1869 when Durfee and Peck

acquired controlling interest in upper Missouri River trade.

Just when Durfee and Peck took over the trading post here isn't known but it seems to have been by 1867. They hoped to keep the Indians happy with food and gifts. Among their supplies were 100 pound sacks of flour which had on each side, red circles made of words "Durfee and Peck." Indians used the sacks for war dress, cutting holes for arms and neck. The Hunkpapa Sioux, of which Sitting Bull, the famous leader, was a member, especially liked these sacks and thought the bright red circles were "Good Medicine."

The stockade of old Fort Peck, now at the bottom of huge man-made Fort Peck Lake, was built by Abel Farwell, a man famed in the West as having participated in more than one hundred Indian fights.

This fort acquired a monopoly of fur trade with Assiniboine and Sioux and became more important than Fort Union, located at the mouth of the Yellowstone.

Colonel Campbell Kennedy Peck and his brother-in-law, Commodore E. H. Durfee, organized a firm which secured a contract from the United States Government to supply military posts and the Indian agencies in the Northwest.

Colonel Peck went to Washington in an effort to get some Federal aid for development of Missouri navigation. He died enroute home in 1869. The trading post was abandoned in 1879 and later was swept away when the river channel cut away and away. Woodhawks and others had been buried in a little cemetery at this point, and as the river washed away the land, later settlers saw wooden caskets sticking out into the water before they were washed away.

The Indian Agency was established at Fort Peck in 1871. It served the Lower Assiniboine and four Sioux tribes: Brule, Hunkpapa, Teton and Yanktonai. This stockade, built by Farwell surrounded both trading post and Indian Agency until July, 1879, when the Indian Agency was moved to Poplar Creek and the trading post was abandoned.

One authority gives October, 1877 as the date when the Fort Peck Agency for the Sioux was moved down the Missouri to the mouth of Poplar Creek.

Notes: There is a discrepancy of two years in these dates.

Did not find in any source material available to me whether Fort Peck received mail on the Pony Express route from St. Paul, Minnesota to Helena, Montana during its short existence from 1867 to spring of 1868 or not. This route ran along the north side of the Missouri, and one stopping point was the little settlement at the mouth of the Musselshell on the south side of the Missouri.

Chapter III

The Buffalo Hunters

The buffalo hunters, government policies and corrupt Indian agents edged out the Indians.

The Indians of the plains lived on buffalo. They ate buffalo more than any other wild game. Buffalo hides were used for their lodges, for making the little bull boats they used on the Missouri River and its tributaries; for making waterbags, clothing, for soft-soled moccasins, for dishes of a sort and for containers for pemmican, their dried meat, which was pounded to bits and mixed with dried chokecherries which had been treated in similar fashion.

President Grant tried to pursue peaceful policies in dealing with the Indians of the West, but eventually his calm judgments and wise mandates were overruled by other politicians and men of the West who could see great profits accruing for themselves when the Indians were out of the way on reservations.

Granville Stuart in Volume II of his book *Forty Years on the Frontier* says: "It was commonly understood that the Government was interested in the rapid extinction of buffalo, the basis on which the independent existence of Plains Indians depended. In debate in Congress in 1874, Representative James A. Garfield stated that the Secretary of the Interior had declared he would rejoice so far as the Indian was concerned when the last buffalo was exterminated."

Men with an eye for opportunities, were early bringing in cattle and sheep to sell at mining camps and military posts at high prices, and when they saw the limitless square miles for free grazing in a territory they were quick to make use of it with cattle brought in from Washington and Oregon, sheep from California, cattle from Texas and other parts of the South.

Conrad Kohrs began buying and selling cattle in the Deer Lodge Valley in 1864 and in the same year settled on the Grant ranch in this area and it was for many years his home ranch, as he and various partners with whom he was associated, built up a great cattle kingdom which extended ever to the eastward until he bought out the H-N holdings on Prairie Elk and the Big Dry and tributaries. In 1865, Kohrs brought 1,500 cattle from

San Joaquin Valley of California to the Deer Lodge country.

In 1866, Nelson Story trailed 600 Texas cattle from Fort Worth to the Powder River where he found the Indians in an evil humor. Against the insistent orders of Colonel Carrington he armed twenty-seven men who accompanied him with rapid-fire breech loaders and went on to the Gallatin Valley over the Bozeman Road. The cattle were trailed at night and kept corralled during the daylight hours. However one man was killed, two others wounded before the end of the drive and Indian anger at the whites invading continued so strong in Powder River country that no more drives to that region were made until 1870.

Negotiations with Indians and pressure from stockmen in small fertile valleys of western Montana who desired more range for their cattle, resulted in diminution of some large reservation areas. By 1871 Ford and Dunn took 1,000 head of cattle into the Sun River Valley and two years later Kohrs and his partner, John Bielenberg, bought more cattle and took them to Sun River Valley, as did Dan Floweres, who trailed in cattle bought in Texas. These cattle grazed among the buffalo.

As early as 1870 cattle were driven into the Smith River Valley which was more protected from Indian sallies after beef, by the establishment of Camp Baker. Then cattle were pushed on into the Musselshell Valley and in five years there were probably 5,000 cattle in the Valley of the Musselshell. In 1881, Kohrs and Bielenberg brought several thousand head to Judith Basin. This country had always been good buffalo country and before the Plains Indians had horses, they obtained much of their bison meat by driving the great shaggy creatures over the piskun near the Highwood Mountains of this area.

Mr. Dan LeValley, father of John LeValley of Brockway was in the Big Dry country very early as a buffalo hunter. Probably the first year he was here was in 1876. That year on his way north he stopped at the Custer Battlefield and saw the havoc wrought there before Custer and his men had been buried. Mr. LeValley was a buffalo skinner.

Mr. LeValley had visited the site of the Indian camp ground on the Little Dry, when it was timbered, and when it was found by later settlers the region was entirely barren of timber and wood. The one hundred fire pots counted there are in a shifting sand dune. This would seem to indicate that

this Indian campground on the Little Dry had been used often by Indians after 1876, or the timber LeValley saw there would still be there. A letter of inquiry to the Indian Museum at Browning by a school youngster brought the reply that the Indians who frequented this camping spot might be either Gros Ventre or Assiniboines. Beads found here were identified as of a kind made in Vienna, Austria.

Among the early buffalo hunters in this area was Bill Stone, who was born in Clay County, Missouri; later, moved to Texas. By 1879, he and his brother headed for Montana to hunt buffalo, a calling which they followed for many adventurous years. One of their favorite camping grounds was on the north side of Miles City on a creek more than twenty miles out. They named this creek "You-all" which was later shortened to Uall. The school in the southern end of District 18, Garfield County, was given this name. Bill Stone died in the Miles City hospital early in 1959, aged 101.

John Stringer was another buffalo hunter in the country along the upper Missouri. When buffalo hunting petered out, he turned to woodhawking for steamboats on the Missouri and later to cattle rustling and illicit trading in horses. He had come to the Missouri-Yellowstone country in 1876. He had a pleasing personality and was well educated, so for a time he was able to deceive people about his activities.

B. F. Lamb, born in Jasper County, Iowa, spent three years as a buffalo hunter in north central Montana, in 1878, 1879, and 1880. Years later when a resident of Laurel, Montana, he told some of his experiences in those "buffalo days" before the Rotary Club of that city, just a few days before his eighty-sixth birthday.

He hunted in the area on the north side of the Yellowstone from near Miles City, west to a creek in present day Rosebud County called Froze-to-Death--north to the Bull Mountains and the Musselshell Valley. He hunted, too, east of Miles City, down the Yellowstone to where Glendive now stands, and had hunted the first two years along the Missouri River and north of it.

He said he had never seen cattle anywhere to equal the number of buffalo in this area, that when you got five or ten miles from the river, no matter which direction you looked you could see buffalo on every hill, on every ridge, in every valley and coulee.

In the late summer of 1880 there were no hunters in the country but by November first the hunters were everywhere. Buffalo hunters camped anywhere--at coulee heads, on the banks of bluffs. Some camps were made of poles, some of rocks daubed up with mud, and a roof of buffalo hides, some were made only of green buffalo hides stretched over a pole --just big enough to make a place to store supplies and for a dry bed.

Some buffalo camp outfits would be a team and wagon, one or two saddle horses. The larger outfits might have four work horses and three or four saddle horses. The hunters' supplies included flour, sugar, coffee, bacon, beans, baking powder, dried fruit and a great deal of ammunition.

In 1880 Lamb was in a camp with three other men. He was the skinner and could skin as many as sixty buffalo in one day. Only the hides and tongues of the buffalo were saved and in four months, these four men saved and marketed 3,800 buffalo skins and over 4,000 buffalo tongues.

Hides were bringing from \$1.50 to \$3.50 and the tongues were worth twenty-five cents a pound, when dried. The rest of the buffalo was left to rot. Surely the scent of the wild roses in spring was never noticed here in the last years of the buffalo.

Hides were spread flat on the ground, stretched until they were wrinkle-free, then staked down with twelve wooden pegs to prevent shrinkage.

The tongues were cleaned and put in curing vats. The brine was made of salt and saltpeter. The vats were square holes dug in the ground, lined with old buffalo hides. At the top the hides were green and staked down. The cover was made of dry hides, weighted down. When the tongues had cured, they were taken up and hung on poles or laid on rocks to dry and more tongues were then put in the solution.

The buffalo was surely the animal most adapted to living in any country with deep snowfall. Stormy weather did not bother them. They faced and went against the storms, and their long-furred faces were perfectly insulated against cold and wind.

Snow cover on grass did not bother the buffalo if the snow was not crusted. They used their heads as brooms and swept the snow from the grass to eat it.

There seemed to be slight diminution in the numbers of buffalo in the northern part of the United States until about 1880. At this time the buffalo herd of the northern plains was thought to be over a million, but in four years, a mere 1,460 days, they had almost passed from sight.

Buffalo hides were shipped eastward by Missouri River steamboat and on the railway by tens of thousands and the year 1884 saw the last of them. The next year not one fresh hide came to market.

Only one man thought of the buffalo in terms of the future in 1884-85 and that was William T. Hornaday of the National Museum. He inquired far and wide in the West as to whether anywhere buffalo had survived and when someone far up the Yellowstone told him that there might be a few remaining in the Big Dry and Porcupine country, he made a trip to Miles City in May of 1888 and reconnoitered in the north country. Mr. Phillips, owner of the L U, told him his cowboys had recently killed one; Hornaday and his companions found two or three and in June he returned to the East to prepare for a fall expedition to get specimens for the Museum when the furs would be prime. In May and June the furs are in poor condition.

In September he returned to Miles City, and went out fully equipped on a two months expedition after buffalo. Among the men who accompanied him were Boyd, Jim McNaney, who had been shooting buffalo by the month in 1880 when only sixteen and who had done so well that he went out on his own at seventeen with an elder brother, investing fourteen hundred in his camp outfit, guns and ammunition.

McNaney had shot ninety-one buffalo in a single stand, ranking next to the best.

Hornaday found these men and the others with him, wonderful help and splendid companions.

The expedition left half their supplies stored at Tow's HV ranch headquarters on the Little Dry at the mouth of Sand Creek. This was ninety miles overland from Miles City where they had outfitted.

Travelling westward from here they met a teamster who had been engaged for some months in hauling buffalo bones down to the Missouri River to be carried downstream by the steamboats to be used for fertilizer. Everywhere they could see the bleached bones of the American bison killed in the greatest carnage of this continent.

The expedition decided to go into permanent camp about eight miles up the Little Dry from the LU ranch. They found the men and the boss at this ranch helpful in every possible way. On one occasion they borrowed supplies from an N Bar line camp but they seem to have had no contacts with the N-N, Bow and Arrow or H3 ranches.

Many days were most discouraging in their hunt for buffalo. They hunted on Sand Creek, Little Dry, Big Dry, the Porcupines where they had another camp, and made one trip to the Musselshell where they found specimens other than buffalo for the Museum. In two months they shot twenty-five buffalo, wandering Piegan Indians stole one, but they had twenty-four good specimens to take back for the Museum.

The largest of these, an old buffalo bull, when in place in the Museum was used as the model for the picture of a buffalo on the old style ten dollar bill.

Hornaday was sure that his Expedition had left fifteen buffalo alive near the head of Big Porcupine Creek when they returned to Miles City early in December, 1886. Here they saw the last of the fair weather before the terrible winter of 86-87 which was to bring starvation to thousands of range cattle throughout eastern Montana.

Hornaday fell in love with the country here during those golden autumn days and was to return later for hunting trips with his friend L. A. Huffman in the Snow Creek and Hell Creek breaks.

The Snow Creek Game Preserve, north of Snow Creek and south of the Missouri River was created through the efforts of W. T. Hornaday. It is remarkable for its weird scenery and its wild game. After completion of Fort Peck Dam this area was renamed Fort Peck Game Reserve.

In 1887 cowboys killed three more buffalo and in 1888 two more were killed; one of them, a big buffalo bull, was shot near Billings.

Also in the year 1887 Con Price told of finding a buffalo cow and calf in the badlands along the Missouri. Both were roped and the calf was butchered but the cow was turned loose.

Ben Rogers saw two buffalo at the head of Germaine Coulee in 1898.

Bill Dundum roped a buffalo calf on Lodgepole Creek in 1900. Ben Rogers saw three cows and a calf on Sand Creek in 1903. He roped the calf and had help eating it.

Dawson County was named for Andrew Dawson, clerk for many years at Fort Benton for the American Fur Company. One fur trading fort a few miles above the mouth of the Musselshell, established in 1862, was named Fort Andrews for Mr. Dawson.

The third Legislative Assembly detached all that part of Dawson lying north of the Missouri River to form Valley County in February, 1893 with Glasgow as the county seat.

Garfield County which is the seventh largest of the fifty-six counties of Montana in area contains 4,595 square miles or about 3,000,000 acres of land. Its population in 1950 was 2,172; in 1960, the population was 1,981.

Garfield County was created from the western portion of Dawson in April, 1919. It was named for President James Garfield. Its population at that time was over 5,000.

Chapter IV

Mysteries

In the autumn of 1958, a man named Morgan, moving dirt for a dam on the Charles Coil ranch, uncovered a shallow grave with thirteen skeletons laid end to end along a narrow ledge. No scraps of clothing nor buttons were seen.

When Morgan found he'd uncovered a mass human grave, he piled two feet of dirt over the entire grave, leaving the bones just as they were found.

The dam was completed and in subsequent rains it filled with water, so the grave is also completely covered with water.

When Captain Grant Marsh took the wounded men down river after the battle on the Rosebud, he found several cavalry horses along the Yellowstone not far from the mouth of Rosebud Creek. Since according to records of the army, after Custer's battle three officers and several enlisted men were not accounted for there was some speculation that they had endeavored to escape into the Musselshell country and that they were not successful.

The mouth of the Rosebud would be forty-some miles as the crow flies from the Charles Coil place.

In 1921, three shallow graves were uncovered twelve miles northwest of Jordan by a man named Bailey. He was plowing. At another time, on a hill on the same farm some old time shells were found.

Chapter V, The N-N

The N-N was one of the first great cattle outfits in the vast land between the Missouri and the Yellowstone. Their cattle also ranged widely after 1888 north of the Missouri, on Milk River, on Willow and Rock Creek, tributaries of the Milk and even into Canada.

The date that the N-N, or Home Land and Cattle Company, began here is a bit vague. In 1882, they purchased the scrip holdings on the Little Dry that belonged to an army officer at Fort Keogh. (His name is not available). With the land they received the officer's brand that looked like this:

FL

One cowboy, D. J. O'Malley, wrote that he and Jim McNaney came up from Wyoming in 1877 and went to work for the N-N.

In 1884, the Niedringhaus Brothers took over on a debt, 6,000 cattle. The same year they bought from Hunter and Evans, who were operating a horse ranch on the Dry, the H3 ranch. That winter their cattle were trailed to the vicinity of Deer Lodge, but the next two winters they ran their cattle in the Big Dry country. Since those winters were hard, the loss of livestock was great.

The founders of the N-N were four brothers, Dutchmen, from St. Louis, Missouri. Their name was spelled Niedringhaus and was pronounced by some as if it were spelled "Neathouse."

Jim McNaney, one of the cowboys, told of the four brothers coming out on the Big Dry to look the cattle over at a time when the blue joint grass was above the horses' knees.


One of the brothers said to Jim, "Why don't we put up some of this hay?"

McNaney replied, "Why there are not enough men in Montana to put up this hay!"

One of the Dutchmen then said, "Vell, Jim, we have a lots of them in St. Louis."

F. G. Niedringhaus was president of the cattle com-

pany while William F. Niedringhaus was president of the National Enameling and Stamping Mills. F. G. had invented enamelware, or graniteware, as it was then called, and established their first factory at Granite City, Illinois.

In 1888, the N-N began building up a new headquarters ranch at Oswego, having purchased the "Heart" ranch there that had belonged to Hunter and Evans. That winter the bulls were wintered on Shade Creek. Two cowboys, O'Malley and McNaney, lived in a cabin on Shade Creek to look after the bulls. 

The N-N is supposed to have lost 25,000 cattle in 1886-7. But it was not long before they had driven up more Texas cattle than they had been ranging here in 1886.

This company often trailed in five herds from Texas in a year, 2,500 at a time. By 1888, they were also breeding cattle, but they continued to bring in Texas cattle by trail herd and to ship them in after the railroads were built.

In 1893, they had nine crews working on the northside range, accompanied everywhere by their mobile kitchens on wheels and wagonloads of bed rolls. That year the N-N shipped to eastern markets 23,000 beeves.

Supplies for the N-N were hauled from Miles City most often. The distance was about 150 miles. The deep trail, known as the N-N trail, could still be seen as late as 1942 where the prairie had not been plowed.

Ranch managers at different times were John Quarles, Henry Leppo, C. M. Jacobs, Jim Harrison and T. H. Logan.

Charlie Hunter, an N-N cowboy, came to their range on Willow Creek, north of the present town of Hinsdale with five thousand cattle unloaded at Miles City in the fall of 1886.

Hunter and one or more companions pitched a tent on Willow Creek and were to stay while several other men went back to Miles City for supplies. The men who remained were to build a cabin for the winter and have it completed when the others got back.

They didn't get it done. Winter hit in October. The supplies didn't arrive either, so they wintered in a tent

with a Dutch oven for cooking. When they ran out of matches they didn't dare let the fire go out.

When these cowboys knew the winter was going to be bad and that the supplies might not get to them, they butchered enough beef to live on until spring while the cattle were still in good flesh.

It was May before anyone got in with supplies and by that time only a few hundred of the 5,000 cattle they had brought in were still alive.

The following summer, one of the cowboys who had helped trail in this ill-fated herd was found dead in his bed, the victim of the live rattlesnake still in his bed.

D. J. O'Malley wrote of spending the same winter in a line camp at the mouth of Sunday Creek with three other N-N cowboys: Jim McNaney, George Rudio, Pony Bill Davis; two Bow and Arrow riders; two LU hands; and two STV cowboys.

There were line camps that winter from Billings, Montana to Buford, North Dakota.

It was the task of these cowboys to turn drifting cattle back before they reached the Yellowstone and to endeavor to keep them in rough country where the terrain would protect them somewhat from the weather and a bit of grazing might be found.

This was a winter without the longed-for-chinook wind, a warm west wind which usually comes in February and clears the range of snow, so that the dried grass on the hills is again available to hungry stock.

This year the chinook lasted only long enough to melt snow to a slush and then the temperature fell suddenly, making of the range a sheet of ice. A cold wind then blew out of the northeast most of February and March.

The cowboys found it impossible to keep the drifting cattle in protected rough lands and with no grass available above the snow, cattle weakened and died in great numbers.

The N-N had its own ferries. It shipped freight in in earload lots. When a cowboy got married, he received a complete set of the enamelware manufactured in the Niedringhaus Enamelware factory--usually such a quantity of pans, kettles, and buckets that they would last a family most of a lifetime.

The winter of 1896-7 the N-N again lost many cattle and the year following they sold out to McNamara and Marlow who had a ranch on the Big Sandy. George Bird who stayed on at the N-N with McNamara and Marlow said they were able to sell enough finished beef from the cattle they gathered to pay for the whole herd which included many cows and young stock.

The N-N seems to have retained some land holdings nearby for in 1902 they sold a ranch on Prairie Elk to Conrad Kohrs' Pioneer Land and Cattle Company. All of the Niedringhaus men seem to have withdrawn from this cattle venture by 1900 except H. F. and in that year he seems to have acquired all the N-N brands--and there were several--and to have moved to a ranch they had built up on the Missouri seven miles farther west.

Part of this ranch was on land which some N-N cowboys had homesteaded in a bend of the river. The original N-N had never had any tractors used on it but the ranch on the Missouri was used for farming and cattle raising was continued at a reduced rate. H. F. brought out three or four large tractors which had been built in St. Louis to use for farming. (This seems to have been after 1900.)

At this Missouri River place they next attempted irrigation, using steam engines for power to lift the water from the river. But irrigation was a failure as they had built their ditches dead level and water would not flow away from the pumps.

This place was also once converted into a hog ranch and stocked with 5,000 hogs. The pigs got cholera and died. This unit contained about 4,000 acres of deeded land. In the late thirties it was sold to a company from Wolf Point who run cattle on it unto this day.

Back in 1885-86, T. H. Logan was Manager of the N-N. They listed their range as Big and Little Dry and tributaries and north side of the Yellowstone. At this time

they were using but two brands: N-N J-L $\frac{N}{N}$

At times their cattle ranged far north of the Missouri, on the Marias and other streams and even into Canada where they had one line camp on Rock Creek in southern Saskatchewan province. The fall of 1886 they had put 6,000 cattle on range across the Canadian border; the next spring 2,000 had survived the terrible winter.

For the year 1900 the Montana Stock Growers' Brand Book gave these brands for H. F. Niedringhaus, transferred from the N-N or Home Land and Cattle Company.

LS Z J $\frac{N}{N}$ C \cap N-N

Three years later, according to the 1903 Brand Book, Henry F. Niedringhaus was using these brands:

N- $\frac{N}{N}$ WG N+N WOO
LS C

Edgar H. Niedringhaus was the foreman and his address was Blackmon, Montana. The range they were using was given as Hungry Creek (it empties into the Big Dry). Although the vast N-N range had dwindled to a tiny fraction of the land where once their cattle ran on Uncle Sam's domain, the number of their brands had increased:

JG N-N \cap C LFD $\frac{N}{N}$

In one of their best years the N-N was supposed to have branded 10,000 calves.

In 1890-91-92 the N-N paid taxes on 100,000 cattle in Custer and Dawson counties. (Valley County was cut off Dawson in 1893.)

How many horses the N-N had to work their vast cattle empire is a matter for conjecture. The cowboys who worked here claimed their outfit had the best horses of any. The N Bar cowboys vowed theirs were the best. Many of the N-N horses were from Pendleton, Oregon; they seemed to be born understanding cows and their whims and made wonderful cutting horses.

The N-N horse camp on Snow Creek later became Charlie Kramer's place about 1893 or 1894.

A few of the cowboys who worked for the N-N: Waddy Peacock, Buck Merritt, Jim Snively, Charley Burns, R. M. Lane, Pierre LaGrange, Hank Cusker, Bob Leavitt, Mart Hanby, Charlie Hunter, Sam Antone, "Slim Kid", Jim McNaney, D. J. O'Malley, George Rudio, Pony Bill Davis, Jack Glass, Bill Newton, "Doc" Smith, Ben Rogers, George Young, and George Bird. Of these men George Bird may be the only one living.

The success of great companies like the N-N would have been less spectacular without the loyalty, hard work and creative abilities of its cowboys. More than one of their men died "on the job" and it is an hour of encompassing sorrow to fellow cowboys when one of their number crosses "his last divide." So it was when R. M. (Bob) Lane was sent in some twenty miles to Miles City for a doctor for one of the men too sick to be moved to town. The doctor came and told the men in a quiet aside:

"Do what you can for him, men. He'll be gone about sundown."

And so in camp, his bed was made as comfortable as was possible and someone was at hand to give him a drink when he wanted it. And at sundown, he took leave of them.

Mrs. Dorothy Lane of Jordan tells of a time many years ago when she and her husband, R. M. (Bob) Lane and small son Earl went over to a friend's place on Horse Creek (Rosebud County) to do chores for a week while their friend had a vacation. Mr. Lane stood one evening looking down the valley of Horse Creek as Earl rode out after the cows at milking time and then said:

"Isn't it strange? Once I helped hold 10,000 cattle in this valley on their way to the railroad to be shipped to market for the N-N. And now my son rides out after the milk cows."

So ended the open range: with barbed wire fences and milk cows. So ended the N-N and the other great cattle companies that had depended on free open range and lots of it and whose cowboys got their milk from a tin can.

Chapter VI The XIT

The XIT, Capitol Freehold Land and Investment Company of Texas, trailed many cattle north into Montana, to the section which L. A. Huffman, army photographer at Fort Keogh called the "Big Open", that vast acreage between the Yellowstone and the "Big" Missouri, which had but few ranches before 1889.

That year the XIT established a headquarters ranch on Cherry Creek in the Sheep Mountains north of Miles City and from there the great, trail-weary XIT herds fanned out in all directions. In 1910, for instance, they put out several wagons for the roundup. They were holding 1,200 cattle on Thompson Creek, and had 100 horses in the remuda there.

The XIT was started in Texas by John V. Farwell, a Chicago millionaire, and his associates, in 1884 with land purchased from the State of Texas in 1882 in exchange for a state capitol building at Austin which was to be bigger than any other state capitol. Farwell received a strip of land 197.4 miles long by 27 miles wide, 3,000,000 acres, as large as the whole of Garfield County, Montana. Never before, never since, has there been such a ranch. Its area dwarfs the famous King ranch of Texas. None of the purchasers looked at an acre of it before it was purchased.

Farwell, who was boss of the ranching operations, hired contractors to fence hundreds of miles; hired Barbecue Campbell, a successful stockman of Kansas and Oklahoma, to manage the ranch. He told Campbell to buy the best blooded cows, heifers, and bulls instead of long-horn scrub stock.

Soon Farwell leased range in the Black Hills of South Dakota and trailed cattle there, and then the next year shifted to Montana where he bought the small headquarters ranch with water rights about sixty miles north of Miles City, and then is supposed to have leased 2,000,000 acres of Montana range.

Then with a trail 1,200 miles long across the public domain from Buffalo Springs in north Texas to the Montana range 35,000 calves produced there annually were eventual-

ly trailed north to Montana to be grazed on this range for two years and then shipped to Chicago.

There were more than 150 cowboys working for the XIT in Texas and Montana and on the trail between these two states.

But the XIT was really too big for its britches. To small farmers and ranchers living in the same area it was, at best, a patronizing big neighbor and at its worst it pulled strings in politics from the smallest local office up to the White House, and always the power it wielded was at cross purposes with the needs of the small landowner, shopkeeper, and business-man.

One set range fire that crossed the XIT burned an area between 70 and 100 miles wide. In this fire 4,000 cattle perished.

By 1912 the XIT in Texas sold most of its land, leased the rest. This ranch once had 150,000 cattle, the most ever owned by a single ranch.

The XIT sent 10,000 steers to the immense Montana range north of the Yellowstone in 1890. O. C. Cato was manager of the northern ranch. Here they began to double winter 20,000 to 30,000 steers before sending them on to Chicago.

Trail herds totalling 10,000 to 12,500 each year replaced those shipped to Chicago. There were ten men with each herd of 2,500 steers. After 1892 a tax was imposed on all trail herds across the "Strip." The cattlemen took the matter of this tax to Federal Court and beat it. The tax had been eight cents per steer.

Four XIT herds of 2,500 and two Long X herds of Reynolds Brothers camped within a few miles of each other near Bovina, Colorado on May 30, 1892. A heavy snow-storm struck and drifted the six herds together. Cowboys stood night herd in summer clothing. Twenty-three steers and several horses froze to death for the XIT and twenty-eight horses of the Long X died. Next day there were six or eight inches of snow on the ground.

Chapter VII - L U Ranch

The L U Ranch was established on the Little Dry previous to 1886. The ranch house, built of native stone, was about 100 yards up Phillips Creek and half a mile south of where Cohagen is now. Here was one of the earliest post offices of eastern Montana, but what was it called?

The policy was always to leave the ranch house open so those travelling through could help themselves. The travelers were supposed to leave the house as they found it. (This meant washing the dishes they used.)

When Hornaday was getting the last specimens of buffalo for the Museum, in autumn of 1886 the L U Ranch kept the buffalo calf they captured and supplied it with milk until the expedition moved back to Miles City.

Bill Case was ranch foreman between 1894 and 1900.

William McBae (Billy) cowboys here during the years 1894 to 1900. He worked mostly with the horses. He was hurt in June, 1900 on Thompson Creek when cattle were rounded up to be turned over to the new owner.

The L U usually kept five cowboys on at the ranch through the winter. They looked after the saddle horses and themselves. There was little else to do.

In the spring for roundup, sixteen more cowboys would be hired.

The L U brought in 3000 to 5000 two-year old steers every year. These would be shipped out when they were four year olds after they had been double wintered.

Each spring one wagon and crew would go to Billings to bring back the two-year old steers that had been purchased in the South, then shipped up to Billings.

The other wagon and crew would go out on roundup with other

ranch crews--the R L, 79, N Bar and Bow and Arrow...

Their roundup would start up the Yellowstone at the head of Muggins, go up the Big Porcupine, and down the Little Porcupine, down Little Dry and down Sand Creek to Big Dry, across Vail Creek, up Steves Fork, across to Sand Springs country and Calf Creek to the Musselshell, up to the head of Blackfoot and down Snow Creek.

At this time the N-N was running cattle on their original territory in the Crow Rock country and the Bow and Arrow outfit claimed both North and South Sunday Creeks as their range.

By 1902 more and more people were coming into the country and even big ranches like the L U, sixty-five miles from Miles City, felt the strain of the open door hospitality they had always practiced. There was a constant stream of visitors. The ranch moved headquarters two miles up in the hills and off the trail to the Jordan country, partly to avoid having so many folks stopping in.

Each outfit furnished the beef for all the wagons in the roundup when the crews were working on their home range.

Other men who worked for the L U were Bob Eldridge, Ben Fleming, Laurence Higgins, Mike Dodge, and roundup cook Charlie Hamilton, and another cook identified only as "Butch."

Of him the cowboys said, "He was so greasy he had to sand himself to keep from sliding off the seat of the chuck wagon when he drove it to a new location.

Chapter VIII Horses

When Lewis and Clark came up the Missouri River in 1805 to explore the Louisiana Purchase, and to cross the mountains to the Pacific, they desperately needed horses for the journey over the mountains and they were able to get some from Chief Cameahwait, leader of the Shoshones and brother of the Indian lass, Sacajawea, who was acting as their guide.

Lewis and Clark probably did not realize how short a time since these Indians had been horseless Indians. According to one authority, the Indians in Glacier Park region (Blackfeet) had horses by 1720. In northern Wyoming the Indians were mounted by 1730 and in western North Dakota by 1750.

In the two hundred years since the Plains Indians began getting horses from the Indians farther south, there has been a mighty number of these wonderful doughty creatures that have galloped across this big dry country.

No animal of the West seems better adopted to its environment than the cow pony or mustang. It endures the rigors of winter as well as the buffalo.

Like the buffalo the horse can paw down to grass and survive deep snow and severe winters on the range when sheep and cattle perish. In the droughts of summer, the horse can go farther to water than other domesticated stock, and seems here to blend perfectly into the environment. But when the profits to be made on cattle and sheep went far above the profits which could be made in raising horses, the knell of the horse on the range drew near.

Time was before the day of the tractor, car, and truck when every horse of every kind was a treasure to someone in this great virgin area where the sod was being plowed and building material and supplies were brought in by horses.

Who then would have thought of the day when all this vast region would have been homesteaded, proved up on,

mortgaged, much of it abandoned with the land soon owned by counties or mortgage companies and the horses which had helped trail cattle and sheep here from every point of the compass; which had furnished the power which turned most furrows on this virgin soil; were turned loose to shift for themselves, year after year, their commercial value almost nothing?

Thriving and multiplying to an unbelievable number in several successive droughty years, they came to be a public nuisance which had to be legislated against and controlled by horse herd districts and county-wide roundups.

New markets for horses had to be devised in the post World War I period. After the war ended there had been no market for horses of any kind until 1927. There was no longer any demand for horses from Canada where earlier a good many Montana horses had gone. The homesteaders who remained were supplied with their own horses or were using tractors. There was no foreign market. All agricultural products sold at low prices and the price of western horses in Wyoming and Montana fell to \$3.00 each.

Several firms soon found a lucrative business in buying cheap horses and then redistributing them in several ways: the best went to the polo fields; others to cotton fields of the South; others were processed in canning factories. Sometimes no more than one cent a pound was paid and the cured meat sold for eight to twelve cents.

"From cow pony to cauldron" is a sad phrase to those who love horses and who flinch at the thought of eating horseflesh.

Gene Haynie, an old Texas cattleman, described it perfectly when he said, "Well, I guess horse steaks are all right if you like them, but I've ridden too many sweaty horses. I can't stand the smell of boiled horse-meat.

Several firms in the United States began buying horses to can before 1927 and that year Montana and Wyoming horses began to move to slaughter houses where horse meat

rapidly became cured meat, chopped, smoked, sausages, and edible oil, also. Much of the meat went to mink and other fur farms. It was exported mostly to Holland and Scandinavia, the hides and hair went to Germany for mattresses, casings were used for sausages, ground bones and scraps went to chicken farms, blood was used for fertilizer; hooves, tails, and ears for glue.

The canned balanced ration for dogs seems to have originated at Rockford, Illinois in 1923. Half of 1446 horses processed under federal jurisdiction that year were canned. Mr. P. M. Chappel claimed to be the originator of the dog ration.

Firms thus engaged were Butte Horse Products Company of Butte, Schlessner Bros. of Portland, Oregon, and Chappel Brothers of Rockford, Illinois, and several California firms.

Cattlemen cooperated in county wide roundups to get the horses off county-owned land. (Much land had reverted to counties by delinquent taxes and tax deeds during dry years and low prices of the twenties. In Garfield County, one million acres, one-third of the total acreage was county-owned.)

These canning companies seemed to think the supply of horses might be as limitless as the buffalo but as wild herds decreased Chappel Brothers purchased some western land, bought good mares and stallions and tried to produce a perpetuating supply of horses.

The Taylor Grazing Act of June, 1934 put an end to misuse of range which had been abused since 1890. County roundups gathered thousands of horses between 1925 and 1929. Montana and Wyoming had the greatest stray horse population of any states. There were 100,000 unclaimed horses foraging on the public domain. In Montana, twenty-six of the fifty-six counties in the state had county wide roundups.

Chappel Brothers began their Montana ranch operations in 1928.

Shirley Bridges tells of buying a large number of horses during the winter of 1927-8 for spring delivery to

Chappel Brothers. So many had been shipped in to the plant at Rockford that the processors could not keep up. At one time there were 4,000 horses on hand and the capacity of the plant was not more than 500.

Chappel Brothers decided to continue buying horses, but planned that they would brand them in the West and keep them there so that they could control the flow to the packing plant.

The first branding of horses with the C B C brand was at Browning, Montana. Len Ingersol was in charge of the horses here but this ranch venture did not turn out successfully as mange broke out and the whole area was quarantined. The horses here could not be shipped out of the state so Chappel had to sell them to the Hansen Packing Company of Butte.

Another ranch was started near Hays, Montana and was operated by Rufus Warrior for eight years when the horses were trailed across the Missouri and a ranch headquarters was established at Sand Springs.

The Oswego ranch was started in June, 1928. Shirley Bridges was to deliver eight hundred horses at Oswego on the fifteenth and that evening received a telegram saying:

"Do not ship. Brand and turn loose."

It took two days to gather a branding crew, while two boys day-herded the horses. Then the men roped and branded one hundred twenty-five horses a day and ferried them back across the river. Other horses were constantly coming in for the C B C and before that branding fire was allowed to burn out the crew had branded and turned loose eighteen hundred head.

Buying and branding continued for the C B C, until at one time there were 12,000 horses at Oswego and in the surrounding area in addition to the thousands which had been shipped on to Rockford.

In 1931, Chappel Brothers bought the old C K ranch and it became the headquarters for ranch activities. Their horses ranged from the Musselshell at Mosby to the Redwater east of Circle.

In 1934, the Company started selling on the open market and by 1937 had disposed of most of their horses. In 1938, the stragglers were gathered and their ranching operations were over.

C B C started two other Montana ranches in 1928. One was near Miles City with Charley Clement in charge. Clement was replaced by Art Fogarty in about a year and by 1931 Sid Vollin took over the management at Miles and was there until the C B C closed out.

Louie Johnson was in charge of a ranch on the Rosebud established that same year. During the droughty years of the thirties, the horses from the Belknap Reservation or the Hays ranch and those at the Rosebud ranch were put on the range at Sand Springs. In addition to the Montana ranches the C B C also had a ranch near Faith, South Dakota and two in Wyoming.

At one time there were around 13,000 horses at the Miles City ranch, 8,000 at Hays and 2,000 on the Rosebud.

Between 1910 and 1918 Miles City was supposed to be the largest horse market in the world.

The number of horses in Montana reached a peak of 685,000 in 1919. In 1930 there were 462,000; by 1940 the horse population had dropped to 250,000 and by 1954 to 104,000.

Chapter IX Early Transportation

The Big Dry country has never seen a railroad nor anything nearer to it than three railroad surveys.

Back as early as 1859-60 a brief look--see--shudder was taken of this area by a detachment of fifteen men sent out by Capt. W. F. Reynolds who mapped the Yellowstone and Upper Missouri Rivers and their drainage basins for the War Department while looking for the most practical routes to the gold fields.

Capt. Reynolds and his exploring party came up the Missouri River by steamboat and were within twelve miles of Fort Benton, the farthest a steamboat had gone upriver at that time.

Capt. Reynolds sent these few men under Lieut. John Mullins to the Judith Mountains and then eastward on the divide between the Missouri and Yellowstone--roughly from the "Cedars" on the Misselshell, across the Porcupine Creeks and along ridges southward from the Big Dry.

Mullins' candid statements in the journal he kept show that he felt this area was strictly for the birds or maybe for the buffalo which they saw in great numbers, feasted upon, and begrudged them the waterholes they had fouled and depleted.

The most interesting things they seem to have to report were that an Indian chief was flying the American flag above his lodge and that the country through which they passed was emphatically worthless--no use building a road there!

Seemingly 1860 was one of the drier years in these parts for although there was a great abundance of buffalo everywhere the water and grass were so short that August that the men suffered for lack of drinking water and their saddle horses and pack animals lacked both grass and water. A sudden hard hailstorm and the consequent flood in the creek they had camped in failed to make them happy.

An encounter with 250 Crow Indians who attempted to steal their horses, and who complained because they had not received their annuities from the Great White Father and because their trading post (Fort Sarpy, established ten years before) had been moved away from them, bothered them also.

The area certainly got a good letting alone by road builders. The first road was that muddy old Missouri River; the first vehicles, the boats of various types. The Indians had their bull boats, made of buffalo hides, their horses, their travois. The breeds that came later to dry buffalo meat had their squeaky Red River carts. They did not worry about roads.

The buffalo hunters used carts and wagons; their roads were the smoothest part of the prairie before them. The cowboys were content on their horses so long as the prairie and hills were not too rough for the cook with the chuck wagon to follow them.

Several trading posts were started at the mouth of the Musselshell. Their beginnings were inspired partly by the difficulty steamboats had in getting all the way to Fort Benton except during floodtime.

Sometimes part of the goods had to be freighted on to Fort Benton by bull team or stored at the mouth of the Musselshell until the steamboat made a second trip carrying the residue of the merchandise.

Early in 1865 John Berkin and a party of men explored a route down the Musselshell River to its mouth and the following year the Rocky Mountain Wagon Road Company built one cabin and laid out a townsite where the Musselshell empties into the Missouri. This they named Kercheval, either for an old steamboat captain, or for F. B. Kercheval, a leading man of Montana Territory who was a member of the road company.

This road company was sponsored by men of Helena and points west. It was ardently opposed by all the merchants, freighters and other business-men of Fort Benton for they did not want to lose a great deal of business by having steamships loaded with goods and passengers bound for Helena, Virginia City and other western mining towns and camps stop at Kercheval and disgorge their cargoes and passengers to carriers on the Rocky Mountain Wagon Road which led through the Judith Basin.

The Fort Benton merchants and the steamboat captains on the Missouri worked together and against the Wagon road and the hoped-for city of Kercheval. Most of the steamboat captains would not unload at Kercheval. It had also been hoped that Kercheval would be the county seat of a county planned on paper named "Musselshell."

In 1869, the enthusiasm for this road ran high. General W. S. Hancock, who was making a survey of Montana Territory at the time and was persuaded to help. He assigned Captain E. W. Clift of the 13th Infantry with 100 cavalrymen to assist for two months in making the survey. A favorable report came in from him.

The Road Company was granted a charter and was to have capital stock of \$800,000. The road was to begin at Virginia City, extend eastward into and through the Gallatin Valley to the head of navigation on the Yellowstone and from there northward to Kercheval. Toll gates were to be allowed every forty miles and as much as \$2.00 for one wagon and team could be charged.

This plan soon proved to be too large to be practical. Toll gates were soon set up and tolls collected without much work having been done on the roads. Military men and freighting companies then protested. Enthusiasm for this road languished.

In 1864, the year Montana Territory was created, the Northern Pacific Railroad was granted a charter. The railroad was built as far as Bismarck by 1873 and the railroad company began urging Montana companies to promote increased western trade.

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The Diamond R, one of the largest freight outfits, and the Missouri River Transportation Company, which owned several steamboats, after negotiations with the Northern Pacific, promoted a freight road through the Judith Basin from a point on the Missouri twenty-five miles west of the mouth of the Musselshell. The little town here was called Carroll and the new road was known as the Carroll Trail.

These companies were much opposed to the Judith Valley becoming part of the Crow Reservation.

Carroll had military protection during the summers of 1874 and 1875. During 1875 and 1876 a mail and

stage route operated over the Carroll Trail.

High floods on the Missouri in June of 1876 flooded away much of the townsite but the route continued business for another four years.

As long as open range and water were available, sheep, cattle and horses were trailed instead of transported.

Among early day freighters in the Jordan area were: Elmer Anderson, Augustine (Maggie) Allen, Tex Stallings, Hod Crosby and Jack Ginther.

Tex Stallings did a lot of freighting to Jordan about 1900. Jack Ginther was freighting for Baldwin's store in Jordan in 1913. In 1903-4, Hod Crosby was freighting from Miles City to the Jordan country.

"Maggie" Allen began freighting in the Jordan area about 1909 and continued up into the twenties. He had fourteen horses in his string team and could haul 22,000 pounds. He usually charged one dollar per hundred for freight between Miles City and Jordan. He brought in feed for stockmen by sled the bad winter of 1916.

Newell Hoverson freighted to the Big Dry country about 1912.

Clem Larson did a lot of freighting between Sand Springs and Sumatra; Edwards and Ingomar, with horses. He often had fourteen horses in his string team and planned to haul 800 pounds per horse.

One winter Maggie Allen unhooked his stringteam just off Main Street in Jordan and laid the harness down on the street just as it should be for quick hooking up. The horses were turned out on Sand Creek. During the next few days, snow fell and covered the harness and some of the horses left Sand Creek for their original range on Blackfoot and it was spring before Maggie got everything assembled for another trip.

Chapter X Wood Hawks and Fur Traders

Lewis and Clark reached the mouth of the Musselshell River on May 21, 1805. They named it for the musselshells which they found along the lower part of this river. They explored up this stream, at least as far as Crooked Creek which they named for the Indian woman who was guiding them, Sacajawea. It seems that the creek was never called by that name.

About 1820 and from then on several white trappers and traders were often in this region between the Judith and Musselshell. Jedediah Smith and Jim Bridger were here at the same time in 1830.

Jim Bridger, with a company of 200 men was here for a short time in November, 1836, trapping.

Fort Piegan was built in 1831 on the Missouri at the mouth of the Marias by James Kipp. This was a temporary post for trading with the Indians. The following year Fort McKenzie, six miles farther up the river was started by David Mitchell and Francis Chardon and later finished by Alexander Culbertson.

Fort Jackson was built in 1833 at the mouth of the Poplar River by F. A. Chardon. Eleven years later Mr. Chardon and Henry built Fort Chardon at the mouth of the Judith, but this was not a profitable trading post.

Fort Kipp built in 1860 on the Missouri above the mouth of the Big Muddy was named for James Kipp, a fur trader respected by the Indians, he married an Indian woman.

Fort Dauphin was also built in 1860 on the Missouri at the mouth of Milk River by Louis Dauphin.

Fort Poplar was built in 1861 on the Missouri near the Poplar River by Charles Larpenteur. The following year Ft. Andrews, named for Andrew Dawson was built on the Missouri fifteen miles above the mouth of the Musselshell. In 1862 Fort Galpin was built twelve miles above the mouth of Milk River. Fort Hawley also operated as a trading post somewhere near the mouth of the Musselshell. The fur traders were really eager beavers in those days and the coin of their realm was skins--either beaver or buffalo robes.

James Kipp, in just a short time traded with the Blackfoot for 2,400 beaver skins and before the winter was over he had taken 4,000 pelts.

A buffalo robe was traded by the Gros Ventre for five pounds of flour or three pounds of sugar. The white trappers complained that for traps and ammunition on the Upper Missouri, they must pay more than ten times the price at Saint Louis.

The woodcutters, known as woodhawks, along the Missouri, who cut wood for eight dollars a cord for the steamboats, were in a good deal of danger from the Indians. During the summer of 1868, seven wood-cutters were killed by Indians between Fort Benton and the settlements.

Chapter XI Liver Eatin' Johnson

Liver Eatin' Johnson has become such a myth that it is difficult to separate truth from fiction about him.

He was a big man six foot four inches. He wasn't a "mountain man" like Bridger, Colter and others. These mountain men were in Montana before the Civil War. Johnson's fame in the West came after the war, it would seem that he was doing a hitch in the Navy before his arrival in Montana.

Johnson was known as a wolfer. He ranged eastern Montana and up into Canada as far as Fort Whoop Up. He wintered once on Tongue River near Miles City, was a deputy at Coulson (Billings) when the Northern Pacific was being built.

Johnson got the name "Liver Eatin'" at a fight near the mouth of Crooked Creek on the Musselshell in which thirty-six Sioux and one white man were killed. Johnson was shot in the leg. Johnson was supposed to have then torn the liver from a Sioux warrior and eaten it.

He always denied this, said he just rubbed it around on his beard.

In that same fight Jennie Hawley lost her scalp and a squaw was shot. Jennie Hawley survived without her scalp and lived until the early 1900's in western Montana.

Johnson and X. Biedler were cutting wood for the steamboats near the mouth of the Musselshell in 1869. It is reported that Captain Marsh bought wood from them here that May and took them on board for his birthday party. Ice cream was served and the two frontiersmen scarcely knew what to think of it.

Chapter XII The Texas Trail

The Texas Trail which began at the Rio Grande and went north to the Canadian line passed through the Uall country. From Miles City it went up Sunday Creek, across Uall, Little Dry, Sand Creek, followed the Big Dry to the divide and then went over it and down the Lodgepole Forks to the Musselshell. There was also a western branch of this trail which hit the Musselshell River from the south where the town of Musselshell is--it was then known as Musselshell Crossing. From here some herds went west, others northwest or north--some following the Musselshell River to their final range, somewhere along it or its tributaries.

Frank Griffith came in with cattle from the south and stayed here for a time as a cowhand.

Bill Cherry was born in the Oregon Territory in the vicinity of Baker in 1864. He is supposed to have come to the Big Bend of the Musselshell with a herd of Oregon horses in 1882. One of his obituaries gives the date of his first arrival in Montana as 1879.

Later he went 'way south and sometime afterward helped bring cattle from Texas to the Big Dry country for a man named Steele. This herd was ranged on the branch of the Big Dry known now as Steves Fork but which then was called "Steele's Fork" after the owner of that trail herd.

Cherry's wife was known as Leafy May from the season of year when she was born. She attended one of the first terms of school held in Jordan. Bill spent a great deal of time trapping and friends say he did well at it. In his last years Bill hunted coyotes by plane, being the man behind the gun. His was a life spent on western frontiers: Oregon, Texas, Oklahoma and Montana. He died in a Glasgow hospital in 1955 at the age of ninety-one.

Bill sold a desert claim he had on Dugout Coulee, a branch of Dry Fork Coulee in May, 1902.

When asked about early churches, Bill replied, "I don't know about churches. I never went.

Bill Walker, a cowboy and trapper who lived in a dugout north of Bert Shorey's on Lodgepole said he came from Texas with the first cattle brought into Wyoming. That was

the D outfit. He said he later came up with the first cow outfit to trail into Montana. (He must have meant into Eastern Montana.) Walker went from here to the Sidney area.

George Trotter, brother of John F. Trotter, came with cattle from Texas more than once. He settled at the mouth of Blackfoot for a short time where he built a log house, then sold out to his brother.

Ad Hendricks came up with a Texas herd for the Circle Diamond that was purchased by a Canadian outfit. He spent one winter, about 1902 with Josh McCuiston in a cabin on Indian Creek (the Indian Creek near Squaw Creek). Josh had just moved his H Cross cattle here from the Rosebud.

Hendricks worked for the Turkey Track outfit in northern Montana, ran a line camp. He also guided Englishmen in Canada who came to hunt deer. Hendricks spent some time trapping beaver.

Fred Gibson trailed cattle here from California. He worked for several cow outfits, homesteaded in the Lodge-pole country where he and his family lived for many years. He later served as undersheriff and then as sheriff.

"Wild Cat" Jack Ginther came with a trail herd to the Brockway country. Their brand was the "Lazy J". Ginther later homesteaded north of Jordan, spent a lot of days freighting with a string team.

"Bilious Bill" Irwin and "Nigger Bob" Shannon trailed cattle from Texas and lived in this country for a time. Shannon settled At Culbertson; Irwin, on the Missouri River. Both are now dead.

George Young came up with N-N herds three different times around 1888 and 1889. These cattle were brought to N-N range about half way between Frazer and Oswego. George homesteaded at Spring Creek in what is now western McCone County.

"Webb" Ole Gibberson came to this area from Oregon with a CK horse herd. W. W. Jaycox came up from the south with cattle. He became a foreman for the Square Ranch north of the Missouri. Later he settled in the Hinsdale community.

William McRae who came up from Texas with a trail herd for the Matador Ranch, in 1892, now lives with his wife in Miles City. He is 87. The herd was 3200 steers which were delivered to the 13 and 44 ranches. There were eleven men with the outfit. Each man had six horses in his string. The cattle were trailed from Panhandle City, Texas to Pine Bluff, Wyoming, and were on the trail three months to the day. Twice the boss had to buy water--\$15.00 each time.

John Smith, a boss for the Matadors, was in charge of the trail herd and McRae said he was the best cowman he ever saw. He would give his orders for twenty-four hours and ride off ahead with blanket and slicker on his saddle. The men with the trail herd would not see him again for another day. He would sleep out on the ground over night but when he returned he would know where and how the trail herd should go next.

There was an alkali lake in Colorado and if the cattle smelled the water on wind that blew across that lake they'd go there to drink and then die on the trail. John Smith showed us how to trail the cattle so they'd not go to that alkali lake. The N-N had cattle on that water ahead of us and we found their dead cattle all along.

In 1894 McRae went again to trail cattle but the water was scarce and fenced so cattle, horses and supplies were all loaded on a train at Panhandle City and shipped to Moorcraft, Wyoming. That herd was turned loose on Powder River below Mizpah.

McRae worked for the LU for six years from spring, 1894, until June 27, 1900. He was hurt that day, gored through the leg by a bull at a roundup on Thompson Creek. It took twenty-two hours to reach a doctor via lumber wagon and team. McRae said the rocks along the Yellowstone near the ferry were the worst and roughest part of the long trip. McRae was practically bedfast for a year with this injury and has walked ever since with a limp.

He could never be a cowboy again. The next year when he was up and about on crutches, Miles Milligan loaned him money to buy a saloon and he bought one in Jordan from Billy Sanders. He and his bride drove out to Jordan in a buggy. They stayed overnight at the Dirty Woman Ranch on Dry House

Creek. McRae remembers the sugar in their coffee cups which hadn't been well washed since they'd been used before.

McRae did not care for the saloon business. He said that he felt most men needed the money they spent in his saloon for their families and business. During the time McRae lived in Jordan, he built the first frame house there, now the Lloyd Cox home. Mrs. McRae then kept a boarding house. She said that she always kept the cash box in the kitchen cupboard and never felt that she had to keep anything locked up.

When their new house was finished, a housewarming and dance were held in it and six women and twenty-six men attended. CK cowboys came and others from as far away as the Missouri River. Mrs. Frank Robinson, the Darnell girls, Mrs. Charles Kramer, Mrs. Swisher, and Mrs. McRae had no lack of dancing partners.

From Jordan Mr. and Mrs. McRae moved to Stone Shack twenty-one miles northwest of Miles City. Here they operated a road ranch. At that time it was the first ranch on the road north of Miles City. A light rig could make it here in half a day but a freight outfit took a full day. Mrs. McRae had the post office here from 1904 until 1907. She thinks there should be an historical marker here. The Stone Shack was built in the seventies or eighties by buffalo hunters. The McRaes used the stone building while they were there as an ice-house.

Hank Cusker was born in Walla Walla, Washington. He began working for the Heme Land and Cattle Company, the N-N, owned by Niedringhaus Brothers about 1886 and came to Montana with a herd of their cattle. He worked for them eight years, breaking horses and serving as a wagon boss and foreman. He married Grace Kimmel who had come to Montana to teach school, in 1904, homesteaded in McCone County where he raised thoroughbred horses, stock horses, and Hereford cattle. He died in 1929.

Ben Rogers came in with a cattle herd from the south to Sand Creek about 1885. He had worked for the N. He was the first cowboy to build a home on Squaw Creek.

Con Kennedy was a ranch foreman for the R L (Ryan Brothers). He had come up with cattle. He died at 92 in 1938 or 1939.

Ben Winn had trailed cattle up. He was foreman of the horse camp at Soda Springs for the N Bar. This was a summer camp. The stock were run in Flatwillow country in the winter time. After the N Bar quit operations in the Big Dry country because of the homesteaders, Ben filed on the land at Soda Springs himself. The water there had been held by a "scrip" filing on forty acres. Joe Dutton later bought this place.

A. P. Peck first came here with cattle from the south in the eighties. He lived on his place twelve miles from Leedy for fifty years.

"Dad" Hickman had trailed cattle from the south.

Tex Alford had also helped bring cattle in from the south. Sometimes he said he had come up the trail six times. Sometimes he said he had come up nine times. He worked for the R L in the Musselshell country a long time.

One winter he was taking care of some cattle on the north side of the Missouri. His boss suspected that he was eating beef from the herd and had the stock inspector go to the ranch to see.

Now a cowboy on a lonely snowed-in Montana ranch is probably one of the loneliest, most solitary of men and any guest, a man on an errand, a father, a brother, an old enemy, even a salesman of goods useful only in an equatorial climate, will find himself welcomed, served with the best that a cowboy's larder contains, and be urged to stay on and on.

It is no wonder some few cowboys without special ambition have said, times over, when queried, "What you doin' this winter?"

Have replied with all honesty, "Me, oh I'm ridin' the grub line."

So it was with Tex Alford. He was lonesome. When the stock inspector rode up, Tex gave him a cordial welcome, invited him to spend the night, fed and put up his horse, and then served wonderful beef steaks for supper. The inspector enjoyed same very much and never managed to state his business during a long, cordial evening of visiting. But he said his piece the next morning before breakfast.

Tex just said, "Well no use hurrying off on that account, you just as well stay and eat breakfast with me and we'll water your horse before you go."

He was urgent and insistent about it and the inspector stayed, muttering something about he needed some evidence.

After breakfast, Tex said, "Well, I could show you where it is."

But he didn't. Just said, "Well, let's get the horses watered." And walked off, leading their saddle horses down to the Missouri.

The inspector walked along, rather distraught and murmured, "Well, I gotta have that evidence to take back with me. Where'd you bury the hide?"

Unsmilingly, Tex pointed down into the cold, icy Missouri and said "Kin ye dive?"

Tex is gone now. His grave is in the cemetery at Winnett, near country where he spent a lot of time riding.

Billy Porter came to Montana with a trail herd in 1890. That particular cattle herd included 3,600 two-year old steers, there were a few three and four year olds. It took ninety-six days to come up to Montana from Texas. This outfit was known as the Bar Bin Texas but was called the OZ here.

The OZ ranged their cattle from the Big Horn River

on the east to the Clark's Fork on the west; from the Yellowstone River south to the Wyoming line. While riding for the OZ Billy had winter camp where Fromberg is now, the winter of '93-'94. This was the winter the Gebo coal mine was first opened.

While working for this outfit Billy got acquainted with Gene Haynie who had also trailed cattle north from Texas. Gene was then managing the "Flying E" at Crow Agency near the old St. Xavier mission. The "Flying E" belonged to Matt Murphy. Gene also worked for the "OX Yoke" outfit and was later in charge of issuing beef to the Crow Indians.

In 1899 Billy Porter worked at Ashland. He freighted the first building material in for the building of this little town at the edge of the Cheyenne Reservation.

Later Porter began working for the P-N Company near Roy, Montana. This was the Power-Norris Company. T. C. Power was a wealthy man who had stores in Great Falls, Bozeman, and Helena, Norris was a poorer partner. The P-N ran about 15,000 cattle.

Billy worked for the P-N five years; then he worked for Fergus Livestock and Line Company for eight years before coming to the Big Dry area.

One winter when there wasn't much to do at the ranch where Billy was staying at Kirby, Montana, he decided to go to school. He was twenty-one, and the teacher, Leila Buffington, assister of Faye and Fuzzy, was eighteen.

Billy homesteaded in the Seven Blackfoot country. He spent his last years in Jordan; died in September, 1956, and is buried in Butte Creek cemetery.

Chapter XIII The N Bar

The N Bar, Niobrara Cattle Company, started in Nebraska but it would seem that the owners were using the "N" brand in Texas as early as 1879, but the outfit came to be known as the Niobrara during the years that Zeke and Henry Newman ran their vast herds in the area drained by the Niobrara. Originally this company was occupied in supplying beef to Indian reservations under contract.

Soon they established a ranch headquarters in the Powder River country in Montana and began trailing in great herds of cattle from both Texas and Oregon. Five great herds were brought in from Oregon in one year, but one of them was taken on to Standing Rock country in Dakota.

By 1884 the N Bar was reaching farther for land and in that year they trailed two herds of two thousand each to the mouth of the Musselshell.

The two principal owners of this company were Ezekial and Henry Newman of Texas. Ezekial Newman was the ranch manager; his brother Henry was a banker.

By 1885 the N Bar was quite at home in the Big Dry Country. Johnnie Burgess was in charge of operations here. In October of that year twenty-six cowboys and the two owners filed declaratory statements of ownership of land, one hundred sixty acres each, on Sand Creek and the Big Dry. All but one cowboy immediately filed a quit claim deed on the land he had just claimed relinquishing it to the big boss, Zeke Newman. Thus the Newman men acquired four thousand acres of land still unsurveyed with living water.

At Soda Springs the N Bar held the springs by virtue of scrip and on what has long been known as the McMain place on the south fork of Lodgepole, the N Bar held one hundred twenty acres of land and spring water with scrip. Here is one of the oldest dwelling houses in this region, built by the N Bar. They also had a cabin or ranch house near the mouth of Sand Creek in 1885.

This land was not surveyed until 1910-1914 except that four townships in the Big Dry area were surveyed earlier than that. The claims of the N Bar cowboys were located by distance from landmarks and by degrees of the

compass. The only man-made markers mentioned other than piled up corner stones were the N Bar ranch house on Sand Creek, an Indian monument and the Hunter Cattle Company ranch house.



In 1886-87 the N Bar lost a great many cattle during the severe winter. Soon after that the ownership of this famous brand changed. It became the property of Thomas Cruse, owner and discoverer of the famous Drum Lummon mine. The Flatwillow ranch had been purchased by the Newman brothers previous to this time and it became winter headquarters.

In the spring of 1886 the N Bar branded over 7,000 calves, had 6,000 spayed heifers, steers and other stock. In 1889 they were able to gather only 6,000 to turn over to Cruse.

The fall of 1903 the N Bar brought down from the Musselshell 15,000 sheep which they wintered in the vicinity of Smoky Butte and the Blackfoot country. After the blizzard the third week of March only 7,000 sheep were left.



Men who worked for the N Bar were: Samuel Hunter, John Griffith, Boy Porter, Ben Rogers, Johnnie Burgess, John Moore, J. W. Phillips, John Wiley, R. J. Walsh, Robert Lynch, Horace Broadus, Elmer Wallis, W. C. Allen, Harry Butler, Chas. M. Alward, E. J. Fowler, George Schultz, Samuel Russell, John Coleman, Clifton Hodge, H. W. Deible, William Jacobs, John Moss, Edward Hard, Johnnie Edwards, John McDumsey, Ed Ross, John Caldwell, George Mitchell, Ben Winn, Daugherty, Wes Huston, Zeke Roberts, Laurence Rich, and Fred Gibson.

The Niobrara Cattle Company was capitalized at \$1,250,000.

When Cruse disposed of his land holdings in this county after the influx of homesteaders he sold to an organization known as Judith Farms.

The N Bar continues to this day at the Flatwillow location near Grass Range. It is now under the management of G. R. Milburn and Aberdeen-Angus cattle are raised. It would seem that this brand--a rolling N with bar beneath it, has been in continuous use since 1879--

Chapter XIV Indians and Indian Troubles

General Alfred Terry made an annual report in October of 1868 which mentioned several Indian raids. Plundering and pillaging by Bloods, Piegons and Blackfeet had made it necessary to have patrols on the Montana-Minnesota pony express mail route and on the Fort Benton-Helena road.

On April 24th, the Sioux attacked the herd at Camp Cooke and drove away thirty-four mules and horses.

On May 17th, Camp Cooke was attacked but the Indians were driven back.

Two days later, seventy-five Sioux attacked Camp Reeve at the mouth of the Musselshell. The stock were driven off but later recovered.

May 24th, Camp Reeve was attacked and two herders were killed.

Ira Edwards, a blind man, who homesteaded north of Lodgepole Creek told that when he was a youngster, in the sixties, he with his father and mother, floated down the Missouri, and at the mouth of the Musselshell, they found eleven gold miners who had been staked down and tortured to death.

The Mineral Argus, a newspaper published at Maiden, Montana reported on November 27, 1884, that the Crows are raiding the Musselshell for horses.

Ten days later this paper also reported that in a gulch some twenty or thirty miles east of the Musselshell, there were seven Blackfoot Indians hanging from branches of cottonwood trees.

Chapter XV Landmarks

Landmarks were much more important to people here in the days before fences and graded roads. It isn't the hardship to be a few miles off one's route in a fast-moving car that it was in the days of Indians, trail-herds and chuck-wagons.

To those old cattlemen and cowboys, naming the outstanding and peculiarly shaped buttes, the creeks and coulees must have been a part time avocation.

The high buttes with unusual features were lodestars for orienting themselves in an untracked, roadless, fenceless land.

The youngsters of today with poor sense of direction and no training in observing the landmarks surrounding them would have been poorly equipped for living in the 1900's and 1890's.

Finger Butte, an old landmark for the people on Hell Creek, no longer shows up as named. This butte near the W. F. McCants' homestead gave its name to the post office which Mr. and Mrs. McCants kept in their home for many years. Finger Butte has eroded away in the weather these past forty years until it no longer looks like a finger, and Biscuit Butte, not far away has not withstood the ravages of wind, rain and other weathering agents, nor continued to look like the object for which it was named either.

Chalky Butte, perhaps ten miles farther west shows up chalky white, with almost no vegetation upon it. It is so perpendicular that it makes a real scramble to climb it. Chalky is on the divide between Snow Creek and Smoky Butte Creek which joins the Big Dry several miles west of Jordan.

Smoky Butte is probably the most widely known landmark in the county. Nine miles west of Jordan, it towers high above surrounding hills. Much of this butte is basalt rock and a rough road was made nearly to the top for trucks that hauled the rock used in riprapping the Big Dry dam.

Smoky was prospected for gold by a miner who made no big stake on his work here. He had a shaft about 80 feet deep and used a windlass. He did this mining here about 1903-4.

Smoky Butte seems to be the abiding place of a good number of rattlesnakes.

Long ago, after Paul Bunyan and his Big Blue Ox got this area logged off, the cowboys of the West are supposed to have had a real big talk-fest where Smoky is now and the smoke from their Bull Durham cigarettes lingers on to create the blue haze that gives the Butte its name.

Above Fort Peck Dam the Missouri River skirts some of the most unusual and beautiful scenery on this continent. The Hell Creek breaks are as unusual, more perpendicular and as varicolored as the Bad Lands of the Dakotas.

In this area the Missouri River has cut itself a deep, steep bed and the creeks that empty into it are precipitous gorges which when running carry topsoil into the "mighty Mo" and make it one of the muddiest streams.

The White Castles, pictures of which were painted by Artist Karl Bodmer in 1833 when he came up this river with Prince Maximilian of Europe, are at the mouth of Blackfoot Creek and have not been buried by Fort Peck Lake as have most of the other landmarks along its shores.

Seemingly, to the stranger coming upon them, two castles stand on hills on the south bank of the Missouri River, near its junction with Seven Blackfoot Creek. There seem to be roofs of yellowish-red tiles with snow white walls below, regularly marked by windows. Actually here there is a long horizontal stratum of white sandstones. What look like windows are really perpendicular slits weathered in the stone and casting shadows. The "roof" is not the tiling it looks to be, but an upper, thinner rock with red and yellow color. The white sandstone strata extends along the banks of the river clear to Fort Benton.

The Elkhorn Monuments were found in 1831 on Elkhorn Prairie, in what is now McCone County. They were on the south side of the Missouri River, just below the mouth of Poplar Creek and there were three of them.

The largest was about twenty feet high and twelve feet in diameter at the base. They all tapered to a rounded top. The three were a few hundred yards from each other, only two miles from the Missouri River.

Each contained thousands of horns, shed by living animals. It was thought that they had stood there many years since the horns had decayed some and the weight had pressed the base of each monument several inches into the prairie soil.

Major Culbertson, who was much interested in the monuments, inquired many times among all Indians of this region: the Assiniboines, the Blackfeet, the Crows, but none knew either history or legend of these markers.

A monument of similar shape, made of stone is located at Belly River, Alberta, Canada. Indians living there know nothing of its origin either so here is one more problem for the historians.

The American Fur Company, always on the lookout for a fast buck, had the monuments taken down in 1850, sorted the horns and took the best downriver to St. Louis hoping to sell them at a good profit to workers in horn. They were disappointed. It is too bad that the monuments were not left to serve as reminders of the unknown people who erected them.

Sumatra, center of the most recently developed oil field in Montana, has the highest elevation of any town between Forsyth and Ryegate. It was on the old trail that once connected Fort Musselshell on the Missouri with Fort Custer in the Big Horn country.

The site of old Fort Musselshell is now beneath Fort Peck Lake. It was thirty miles north of Mosby. In the 1860's and the 1870's it was a trading post for Gros Ventre. The traders, a few wolf hunters and the woodchoppers who sold their wood to Missouri River steamboats, were the only white men in this part of the country. While Indians were at peace, trade was profitable. The Gros Ventre would exchange a buffalo robe for ten cups flour or six cups sugar. Assiniboine and Sioux harassed the post.

Different settlements here at the mouth of the Musselshell were known as Kercheval City, Musselshell, Downes' Trading Post, Kismet (on east side of the river) and Fort Musselshell. Army also had Camp Reeve here for a short time.

The Chimney Crossing on Calf Creek was named by cowboys for a rock hill shaped like a chimney.

"The Gumbo" is a wide strip of land south of Edwards and Sand Springs. When Sumatra and Ingomar were the chief trading towns for homesteaders in western Garfield County, freighters were caught there in every onset of inclement weather and sometimes had to lay over with their teams.

The highest elevation in the county is on a hill at Frederick Loomis'. This point is 3,286 feet above sea level. At the Twin Bridges near Devil's Creek Fishing Grounds the elevation is 1,900.

Rocky Point, also called Wilder was a wolfers' town built on cliffs above the Missouri some distance upstream from Fort Musselshell.

Rocky Point may never have had more than seventy-five inhabitants, but these folks, many of them, and others in the surrounding country, were engaged in profitable tri-territory and two-nation horsetrading of cayuses not their own.

Horses were taken at night, moved to badlands, brands altered, herds shuffled and reshuffled and then moved again between sundown and sunrise. Dakota horses often moved to Wyoming; Wyoming horses moved to Montana and Canada; Canadian horses moved southward.

Chapter XVI The GK and Conrad Kohrs

The GK, Pioneer Cattle Company, owned largely by Conrad Kohrs, purchased the N-N ranch on Prairie Elk in 1902 and moved to that location.

Kohrs had started in the cattle business in 1865 in the Deer Lodge Valley and had gradually worked eastward. He was one of the largest cattle owners in the west and ran as many as 65,000.

John Bielenberg was associated with Kohrs very early as a partner but Kohrs seems always to have been the spokesman for this partnership. As early as 1865 he had brought in a few cattle from California.

These men ranged cattle in the Sun River Valley very early and by 1881 they had 3,000 on Flat Willow. Kohrs mentioned years later of riding to the ranch that year from Miles City, a distance of 150 miles, where there was but one stopping place en route, seventy-five miles from Miles City. He made the distance in two days and declared he was as nearly dead as he had ever been at the end of a trip.

In 1882 he and his partner bought cattle for which they paid \$90,000 and their sales of cattle amounted to \$165,000. Annually they sold from 100 to 200 grade bulls at a price of about \$50.00 each. This was before the day of purebred herd sires.

In 1883 the heaviest transaction in cattle that ever occurred in Montana Territory was made when Kohrs and Granville Stuart bought 12,000 head of cattle for \$400,000.

The winter of 1886-7 when cattle losses were terrific, Conrad Kohrs spent in the East doctoring. He returned in the spring in good spirits with his health restored. Big ranchers like Stuart who had seen their cattle suffer and starve to death, had turned against raising cattle except what could be cared for more adequately than on the open range.

Conrad Kohrs had but 300 cattle left of a herd of 35,000, was saved from financial ruin along with some other cattlemen by Rosenbaum, a Chicago livestock commission man

who advanced Montana cattlemen who already owed him a total of a million dollars another million dollars to re-establish themselves in the cattle business.

Twenty years later Kohrs was able to return this favor during the hard times of 1907 when Rosenbaum faced ruin in the Grain Exchange. Kohrs and other cattlemen loaned him one million dollars; this averted tragedy for Rosenbaum and before long he was able to repay all that the cattlemen had loaned him.

After the CK was established in central Dawson County, they crossed their cattle at the rocky crossing at the mouth of Prairie Elk and took them to Oswego to ship on the railroad. There was a government post office called Piermont here and two saloons willing to take care of the cowboys' wages.

Kohrs tells in his autobiography of spending much of the summer of 1900 at the ranch in Dawson County where they were improving that ranch by building a bunkhouse, and cottage and remodelling the foreman's house. That year they had quite a herd of steers on the upper range in charge of Frank Arnett.

On this new ranch they had access to many miles of open range for years and while their losses were heavy, (there were several severe winters about this time) the herds of cattle they brought in from Texas kept the range stocked.

They had about three hundred head of horses in their remuda. Some of their horses were brought in from Oregon.

The CK cowboys were proud of their cook wagon and cooks and claim that when George Young was the cook he once cooked breakfast for seventy-two men in twenty minutes and that the menu included beef steak, fried potatoes, hot biscuits, gravy and coffee. The hard working cowboys of sixty years ago would have scorned the piddling breakfasts now popular. Other wagon cooks here were a DeGow, Billy Wood, and George Conklin.

In 1904, the CK leased reservation land on the north side of the Missouri, crossed 2,000 cattle over there to range for a year and then shipped them all.

Some of the men who worked for the CK in this area were: Rufus Morris, wagon boss, Scotty Dunlap, wagon boss, John Boardman, foreman and son-in-law of Kohrs, Ole Gibberson, Ed Allen, Orrin Miller, Whit Newland, Fred McCune, and George Young.

The CK lost a lot of cattle in the March storm in 1904. They were southern cattle turned loose on Woody Creek the fall before.

The year 1915 was the last one that CK ran a roundup wagon. Rufus Morris bought the remnant of their herd and began ranching on Nelson Creek, a tributary of the Big Dry.

When Stuart, Kohrs and others organized as "The Pioneer Cattle Company" they had a capital of \$400,000 furnished by S. T. Hauser, Granville Stuart, their company paid a dividend of \$34,000 in 1883 and at the same time put another \$38,000 in profits into further expansion of their cattle business.

In 1885 Kohrs had leased land in Canada from a William Carter to run 10,000 of his Montana cattle. That year the Canadian government announced there would be a twenty per cent tariff on all cattle coming in from the United States. These cattle did not cross the boundary before September first when the duty would go into effect so Kohrs faced a \$72,000 customs duty on his herd.

American cattlemen soon hit on the device of letting their cattle "drift" across the boundary and the practice became so common that the Mounted Police were busy at cowboy chores, driving stock back. Kohrs must have been one of the bosses who winked an eye at this procedure for in his autobiography he tells of the Canadian government impounding 1,200 of his cattle one year and Kohrs had to make a trip to Ottawa to get them back.

Chapter XVII

We Didn't Need Television Programs Then

Hazel Winter, Alvin Hill, and the Benson children explored an Indian cave in a butte near Johnny Hill's ranch on the Mussel-shell, 25 or 30 years ago.

They were unable to get to the cave entrance except by being dropped down from a rock above the entrance on a rope. They managed that.

In the cave they found bones and bright colored beads. The bones had no interest for them, but they gathered many of the bright colored beads to take them home.

When they told their adventures at home they were quite nonplussed by their parents' reaction.

Johnny Hill had heard that the cave was a burial ground for Indians who had died in a smallpox epidemic and was alarmed that the children might have contacted a few germs while digging around.

Mrs. Hill took their beads and burned them despite their protests that they could be boiled instead.

Next day Hill and Benson took the youngsters to town and had them vaccinated for smallpox and they all sported sore arms instead of Indian beads.

One of the biggest rattlesnake dens found hereabouts was near a school house on Little Breed Creek.

In 1929-30 there were nine children attending this school--- among them, Bruce Dutton's children and several of Carl (Kentucky) Smith's children. The snakes were in a dog town right at the school house and the children hunted snakes from the first day of school, on any hot day, until snow or cold weather drove the snakes down in the prairie dog holes for the winter.

No estimate available of the number killed but the record for one noon hour was: "116 good rattles." Rules set up by the youthful snake hunters did not permit counting "buttons" or broken rattles.

In a cave with sandstone walls on the bottom land near the mouth of Billy Creek, John and Elizabeth Trotter, while attending the school at Simonson's found the names of two of the explorers with the Lewis and Clark Expedition in 1805, carved deeply into the sandstone wall.

The Newell Hoverson children, while scouting around the hills at their grandparents' place--John Milroy-- on Spring Creek, (near Taylor Creek) found a great many Indian beads. These beads had washed off a high sand rock hill where there had been an Indian grave. They gathered them up carefully and took them home to keep.

Margie Owens tells of a rock lookout on a high and rocky hill on her father's (Charles Coil) place in the Cohagen country. The hill was surmounted by a man-made rock lookout about six feet by six feet with holes up at a convenient height for looking out on the east and west walls. This hill was so steep on the south side that there was no danger of being surprised from that side. This hiding place was about eight feet high.

The earliest settlers in that neighborhood knew nothing about its origin.

Chapter XVIII
The 79 and the Northwestern
Cattle Outfits

79



The Seventy-nine, which established a ranch headquarters near the head of the Big Dry about 1900, was owned by John T. Murphy who first operated a store in Helena in 1865 and later had a hardware store in Great Falls.

His cattle company was called by his brand, the year he started running cattle, (18)79, but the legal name of the company was "Montana Cattle Company." Murphy was also the principal owner of Northwestern Cattle Company which branded three "V's" nested together like chevrons. By 1885 he was running cattle branded thus on both sides of the Musselshell. At one time the two companies owned 600 horses and 92,000 cattle. Murphy and David Fratt brought 6,000 head to the Musselshell in 1883.

The 79 was started on Sweetgrass Creek. In 1881 this outfit moved to Big Coulee a few miles north of Laurel. This coulee was several miles wide and was easily enclosed. It made excellent winter headquarters. Murphy acquired some 90,000 acres here and sold it in 1907 to a group of men from St. Paul after he was well established on the Big Dry.

Murphy seems to have been financed to some extent in the early years of his cattle ranching by Bob Ford, early cattleman in the Sun River country.

The 79 herds were built up by cattle trailed in from Texas and at its peak the 79 ran 50,000 cattle and 40,000 sheep. The Home ranch was at Big Coulee for many years, but there were three other large ranches and the stock bearing this brand ranged from the Yellowstone to the mouth of the Musselshell and east through the Big Dry country.

When the open range began to close, the 79 purchased railroad land and fenced it, fencing in the Government land on alternate sections. In obeying the law they knew when to stop and still have fat cattle. The fences of the 79 ran right up to but not quite around Government corners. By 1908 the Government stopped this fencing tactic and by 1912 the company broke up its holdings.

The cattle Murphy ran in the Big Dry country seem to have been brought in from Oregon. On the Dry Murphy acquired eighty acres of land: one parcel of script and squatter's rights to another forty from Bill Cherry, a trapper, who had helped trail cattle from down south, and horses from Oregon. Cherry had a dugout on the forty and a wonderful spring of water.


Murphy didn't bother much with buildings. His men used the Cherry dugout and two wagons. One foreman, Matt Roake, got a few buildings up and later, after Murphy quit, Matt Roake and Dan Geib homesteaded where the buildings and fences had been put up. The 79 horse camp was thirty or forty miles to the northwest in a cutbank coulee still known as Seventy-Nine Coulee. Here about 1914, Gene Haynie's son Jim homesteaded.



Men who worked for the 79: Matt Roake, John Collins, Sim and Bill Roberts, Sam Garvin, Ike Morgan, Andy Wheat, Joe Kountz, Ben Davis, Viv Hooker, Dan Geib, Porky Reynolds, Jim Swisher, Jim Cunningham, Pug McMillan, D. J. O'Malley, Fred Gibson.

Murphy died in 1914. His estate was valued at about one and a half million. Montana had treated him well financially during the nearly fifty years he lived here.

Chapter XIX The Reversed "L" Reversed "7"

The first cattle ranch in the Haxby region was the one belonging to Land, Tomb and Lemmon which branded a "Reversed L, Reversed 7". Their home ranch was in Dakota.

At one time the  was running between 50,000 and 60,000 cattle. They had cattle in Texas, North and South Dakota. It may be that the number in Montana was rather small. On the Standing Rock Indian Reservation they had an 865,000 acre lease enclosed with a wire fence. This was in the year 1902. It may have been the largest fenced pasture anywhere. At least that company thought it was.

The  bought 400 saddle horses from the N-H  when it closed out. They took their stock out of the Haxby country and withdrew to the Dakotas in 1904.

Chapter XX The Pony Express

The Pony Express route between Minneapolis and Helena seems to have been arranged by armchair strategists who knew little about the West and who believed that a straight line is the shortest distance between two points.

They thought little of hostile Indians or the rough land along the Missouri.

The route was established in 1867, a contract was let. The riders had difficult and over-long journeys between stations. The service was poorly performed except in the western section. The settlement at the mouth of the Musselshell received mail on this route. Pony Express service was abandoned in April, 1868.

Chapter XXI The Running Water Land and Cattle Company

The Running Water Land and Cattle Company is listed in the 1885-6 brand book of the Montana Stockgrowers Association. Their post office address is given as the National Stockyards, Chicago, Illinois; their brand as H3 and their range as Big Dry Creek from fork to mouth, its tributaries and Elk Prairie Creek. The H3 was known as a horse ranch. The ranch headquarters were about a mile above the ranch known in later years as the John Willis ranch. The H3 belonged to Hunter and Evans. They lost too many cattle the winter of 1886-87 to run their roundup wagons in '87 and sold their brands to Pierre Wibaux who branded W. Hunter and Evans had earlier been on the Niobrara in Nebraska with cattle trailed in from Texas earlier.

Chapter XXII Kramer Brothers

Three Kramer brothers came with cattle from Colorado in 1892. They crossed the Yellowstone and Missouri with their stock and went on to Canada. The land there that they had expected to range had all been burned off in a prairie fire, so they retraced part of their route with their cattle, swam them back across the Missouri in the Squaw Creek area.

Later Charles Kramer settled on Snow Creek; Frank Kramer, on Blackfoot; and Lou Kramer, about a mile above Jord an. Lou turned to raising horses for the Canadian market and built a pasture containing about four sections of land. He built it with round corners and found it more practical than the conventional fence when chasing horses.

Chapter XXIII Roads, Trails, and Falling Off Places

The trail down the Big Dry was travelled first by General Miles, stationed at Fort Keogh, in sallies after the Indians, especially Sitting Bull and his Hunkpapa Sioux. The freighters on this old Big Dry trail used mules. Mule shoes were occasionally found by homesteaders years later.

A rural school south of Mosby was named "Whoop-Up" for the trail from Texas across central Montana that cow-boys used moving cattle to northern ranges.

Someone has said that a river is a road that moves. The expression certainly applies to the muddy Missouri. Sometimes it moves sideways and sometimes it moves backward and it changes its channel so often that it made a perpetual problem to the river boatmen who made their living upon it.

The Missouri was much used by the Indians. They used bull boats and later dugouts. The bull boats were one of two unique modes of transportation developed in the upper Missouri area--the other was the Red River cart.

The bull boats were made of the thick hides of big buffalo bulls which were stretched while wet over willow frames. Then when the skins dried, the shrinking made them fit the frames tightly. There was a disadvantage however. The Indians and trappers who travelled in bull boats, had to camp every night, pull the boat out of the water, empty it and turn it upside down to dry for the skins stretched when wet, and during a day on the water nearly an inch of water would leak into the boat.

Many of these bull boats were round as tubs and would hold but one person. Larger ones, made from the largest buffalo skins, were shaped more like canoes and might hold three or four men.

Dugouts were hollowed out cottonwood logs, usually two inches thick on the bottom and an inch thick at the rim.

Mackinaw boats were fifty feet long, twelve feet wide, and four feet deep. Coming up the Missouri, they required a crew of twelve men; five men could handle one going downstream. They were used for shipping furs.

Keelboats, also used on the Missouri, were larger than the mackinaw boats. They were often sixty or seventy feet long with cabins, a sail and oars. Sometimes the sail could not be used going upstream because the wind would be in the wrong direction. In this event, the keelboat was poled, rowed, or cordelled, or a combination of all three.

The "cordelle" was a strong rope, usually a thousand feet long. It was fastened high on the mast so it would not catch in bushes. The crewmen walked along the shore pulling on the rope to hasten the boat's progress upstream.

The invention of the steamboat came at a most opportune time to hasten the speedy settlement and development of the three great river valleys: Ohio, Mississippi and the Missouri.

The trappers and traders on the Missouri were happy to have easier and cheaper transportation and at first the Indians marveled at the wonders of the fire- canoe, but later were to oppose it because it brought so many settlers, gold hunters, and others bound on wresting from them their homeland.

Steamboat traffic of the sixties was highest in 1867 when thirty-nine boats carried 5,000 tons of freight to Fort Benton. Some of the boats paid for themselves in a single season. The "Ida Stockdale" cleared \$42,597, nearly twice her value, in five weeks of that year on the Missouri.

But the Missouri with her fickle channel and changeable route wrecked nearly 450 steamboats during those years when the steamboats carried most of the freight into the Dakotas and Montana.

Of the muddiness of this stream Senator Ingalls summed it up pithily, "It's a little too thick for a beverage, and a little too thin to farm."

The Bone Trail which is about three miles in length, drops off the Slaymaker Ridge back of Frank McKeever's and angles steeply down to the mouth of Blackfoot. The lower part of the trail is now beneath the lake. After the buff-

also were gone from this country, the Indians gathered great quantities of buffalo bones. Great piles were stacked up on Snow Creek on land that was later Jerry Iverson's homestead. From here the Indians took them down the Bone Trail by Red River cart and pony travois to sell to the steamboat captains who took them to St. Louis to be made into fertilizer. The Bone Trail had an elevation of about 1800 feet at the mouth of Blackfoot and of 3,200 feet "on top"

Ranchers along the river later used the trail, usually for horseback travel only. One man who tried going down with a team and wagon--he was walking--had both team and vehicle go into a steep canyon and his horses had to be shot. Among his supplies left in the canyon, was a blacksmith's anvil which was later carried out by a man who wanted an anvil.

Ishmael Weeding walked out the Bone Trail from his home at the mouth of Blackfoot, leading his saddle horse on a wintry afternoon, and had the horse slide back into a hole from which he found it impossible to help him. He was only able to cut the saddle cinch with his knife and pull the saddle free.

The trail from the mouth of Billy Creek on the Missouri out "on top" was also difficult. Harry Cutter's horse slid into a hole one night when he and two companions were coming out to a dance and it took all present to get the horse back on the trail again.

Most, if not all of the trails leading out from the river to the hills above were steep and difficult, among them the one from Hanshaw's from Beebe Bottom where the Crowder and McPherson families lived, from Hall Creek and Devil's Creek fishing grounds are all that their names imply when wet, icy, or deeply snow covered.

The "79" trailed cattle from their Big Coulee ranch north of Laurel down the Musselshell River from about Roundup to Melstone, and then north to the lower Musselshell and the Big Dry country.

Few places had wider trails than this Big Dry country. The sheepmen who wintered in the Judith Basin and went north of the Missouri to summer after the Indian country there was opened up, would trail to the ferries in the most leisurely and most meandering fashion both going and coming if the grazing was good, and it usually was good.

Chapter XXIV Elmer Anderson

Mr. Elmer Anderson of Jordan served with the Ninth Cavalry, when it was sent into Wyoming to stop the Johnson County Cattle War between the cattlemen and the sheepmen.

Mr. Anderson was a horse wrangler and not a member of the military personnel. He said he was old enough to draw government rations by the time he was with the Army.

In reminiscing, Mr. Anderson said he was born August 2, 1873 in Iowa.

He was a horse wrangler for the Army in South Dakota, also, at the time the Indians were up in arms against an English syndicate that had brought in cattle.

He said the Indians had the old squaws sit on the bundles containing guns, ammunition and tomahawks while the soldiers searched the camp. Elmer aroused the antagonism of a mute Indian by calling him "crazy".

He didn't think much of Army-made coffee for in those days before our instant beverage, they dared to call it coffee when grounds were put in a cup and boiling water poured over it.

Elmer came to Miles City in 1898 from Virginia City and spent some time in the area north and west of Chalky Butte. In 1906 he took eight horses and two wagons down east of Miles City and worked on the Milwaukee railroad then being built.

Later he returned to the Jordan country, married, homesteaded, and has raised a large family. He spent much time freighting with horses and later with trucks, mined and sold coal. Once he trailed two carloads of horses to Moosejaw, Canada for Percy Williamson.

One hard winter he hauled feed for August Anderson's sheep across the Missouri River ice. This was discouraging business for both men as so much of the load had to be used for horse feed on the long cold trips.

Chapter XXV Crow Rock Ranch

About 1897, a man named Naylor was running a band of sheep in the Crow Rock locality. He owned no land, of course, but had a dugout in the side of a hill for his headquarters, and could range thirty miles in all directions, without encountering much opposition.

He probably got along all right with no expense except a forty-dollar-a-month herder, but finally he decided that the fifty mile distance to Miles City was just too far for a man to go horseback for a few drinks.

So he sold out to an Englishman named Penman, who made some improvements in the way of a big barn and rock house and perhaps a sheep shed. He and his wife did all the work of building the structures of native stone, ash trees and a little lumber.

Mr. Penman was a successful sheepman, and when he sold out in 1903, he was running about five thousand head of fine sheep. He sold to the Cook-Buffington Sheep Company; in the fall of 1906 that company sold to the Crow Rock Sheep Company.

The only land included in the deal were four forty acres scrip, which afterward proved to be worthless. But Crow Rock Sheep Company acquired twelve thousand head of sheep, sheep wagons, horses, some cattle, two hundred fifty tons of wild hay, plus a lot of equipment useful on a sheep ranch.

The coming of the homesteaders put a crimp in the sheep business for a few years. Added to the scarcity of grazing land with the coming of homesteaders, the old stockmen were bucking low prices of wool and lambs, droughty summers, tough winters and always a reluctant banker, who was generally suffering from stomach ulcers, and a profound spirit of pessimism, that was responsible for his doubting whether things would ever get any better.

By the year 1932, the price of wool had sunk to six cents a pound; the best young ewes were down to four dollars a head, and old ewes had a hard time finding a buyer at seventy-five cents a head. Good stock cows, with calves at side went at thirty dollars a pair in car load lots.

The majority of the homesteaders had either gone broke on their land, or had borrowed all the money they could on it and left the country for good.

Taxes had been delinquent for several years; no interest had been paid on land mortgaged to eastern land companies, who had vainly thought that good land was security for a loan of twenty-five hundred dollars on a half section.

About this time, the Crow Rock Sheep Company, of which Warrner Woodson was the principal owner and manager, during the years 1908 to 1932, liquidated its business, mostly because it was unable to keep up its annual payments on railroad lands. This was right at the bottom of the depression.

The new owner of the ranch was a wealthy man from New York named G. E. Huggins. He was a splendid business man and recognized that this was an opportunity of a lifetime to acquire a lot of cheap land to add to his holdings. (Also he had some money which many who realized what an opportunity it was, did not.)

It took twelve years or more for the counties of Custer, Prairie and Garfield to sell off immense acreages of land they acquired because of failure to pay taxes.

The Northern Pacific Railroad, which owned and still owns many sections of land in these counties and in Rosebud, reduced its list price of railroad land to one-third of its former price; and the mortgage companies had received no interest on their

mortgages for six years and they, too, had ceased to pay taxes.

The result was the land was bought up at prices ranging from fifty cents to a dollar an acre. When Mr. Huggins sold the Crow Rock ranch in the fall of 1946, he had built up a ranch of three hundred sections, of which about sixty per cent was owned land and the rest Northern Pacific leases.

Under the Government range program, the Government paid most of the cost of building stock reservoirs, sinking deep wells, and fencing the land. The purchase price in 1946 was \$4.25 per acre; less than one-half of what this land is bringing now.

Clarence White of Miles City was foreman of the Crow Rock ranch between 1933 and 1946.

This ranch has now been divided into a number of ranches and is being farmed under the strip method of farming, or used for raising cattle.

Chapter XXVI The Hat X Ranch

The Hat X was a cattle company belonging to Wells and Malone. Hugh Wells was the manager. The headquarters were at the mouth of Timber Creek on the Big Dry.

In 1902 Hugh Wells shipped to Miles City 21,000 longhorn cattle from New Mexico and then had them trailed to the range on Timber Creek and the Dry. Wells had operated earlier with an **LS** brand



H
+

Chapter XXVII Smaller Ranches

In the years between 1890 and 1910 the big cattle companies began to dissolve and individuals with small herds took over part of the range.

In 1913, 1914, 1915, homesteading erased the open range and the last of the big cattle outfits were forced to close out or reduce operations to what could be contained on deeded or leased land.

Q The 1910 brand book lists familiar names of men who were running cattle here fifty years ago. Among them are Thomas Cruse of the "N", V. G. Hooker, who was running cattle on Indian Creek and head of Blackfoot, Oscar Hunter, north of Jordan; W. B. Jordan; Minnie and Clara Kramer, on Blackfoot; Fred C. Kibler, who ranged on Hell Creek, Crooked and Woody Creeks; John T. Murphy, chief owner of the "79"; John J. McCarter, on Squaw Creek--he branded UZ; Eli and Josh McQuistion, on Squaw Creek; Nordquist and Hatledal, who branded T4 and who ranged on the lower Musselshell; John O'Dea of Mosby whose range was the Lower Musselshell Valley and who branded a Lazy A with upside down U attached; A. P. Peck, who had trailed cattle from Texas, his post office was Leedy and he branded his initials: AP. One man said of Peck, "He was there when his hair wasn't safe (from scalping Indians)."

H
Q
79 6L
HT
N
C

AP UZ T4
Ben Vandenberg and "Shorty" Thomas were in the Haxby country about 1900.

Big Finger Jack McGlown came in to run cattle where Frank M. McKeever lives about 1900. He had lost one finger in a logging accident and his thumb was misshapen and long. He ran about one hundred fifty cattle for ten or twelve years and made a good profit.

Edwin Hall came to the mouth of Snow Creek about 1900.

Joe MacDonald had settled south of Smoky Butte on the Dry before 1906. Mr. and Mrs. Freed were on the Missouri in 1904.

+

The H Cross, J. P. "Josh" McCuistion, owner, was located on Rosebud Creek, south of the Yellowstone prior to 1900. About 1900 McCuistion moved to Squaw Creek. He spent one winter on Lodgepole in a cabin which he and his cousin, _____ Kirby, built. Bones Ricks later homesteaded this place. Kirby, for whom Kirby Coulee was named, decided to go back to the Yellowstone to ranch. He had also worked for the 79. McCuistion spent the next winter in a cabin on Indian Creek with Ad Hendricks who had trailed cattle up from Texas. He bought out "Huff" or Hoffman who had a set of buildings on 79 Coulee and used this as a line camp. McCuistion started closing out in the fall of 1913.

ELY

The ELY brand belonged to Josh McCuistion's nephew, Eli McCuistion. It was not an old established brand. He ran cattle on the same range as his uncle and his ranch buildings still stand on land now owned by John Tripp. Eli McCuistion died in the fall of 1913.

ELY

Bill Twitchell had a horse ranch on the Big Dry about where the L7 of an earlier day had their headquarters. Twitchell was here in the early 1900's. He branded: Y

J. A. Ramer was ranching on Sand Creek in 1910. Later he located south of Miles City and raised blooded horses. He had been a jockey. He branded: CT

H. N. Gilmore was running horses in the Crow Rock country before 1910.

I

John Shoup was ranching in the Brunelda area before homesteaders.

69

Sensiba Brothers ranged on Frazier Creek and its tributaries; Vail Creek, Snow Creek and Hell Creek. They branded:

PS

TS

AB

Johnson Brothers, on the Missouri north of Jordan around 1900, branded the P-Stirrup. This brand was used continuously in one family for more than fifty years.

AB

Ollie Reed was ranching here before the homesteaders came.

John Willis who located on lower part of the Big Dry branded COI

L. B. Slaymaker, whose post office was Stone Shack, ranged his cattle at head of Uall and near Big and Little Dry House Creeks where the buffalo hunters used to dry meat. Later he homesteaded on Snow Creek on the ridge above the Bone Trail. Several years later he moved across the Missouri to ranch in the vicinity of Saco. His brand:

4

L. E. Tripp came here in 1898 and started ranching for himself in 1902. His range was Squaw Creek and south side of the Missouri. He first branded: L-T
Later he bought the 6-X brand from Ben Rogers. This is one of the brands which seems to have been in use continuously for more than sixty years. When the Tripp ranch was sold to Weder several years ago, the 6-X brand went with the ranch and is still in use.

6-X

The Crescent Live Stock Company was ranging on Big and Little Porcupine and Custer Creek in 1885-86. They branded an "F" with a crescent or quarter circle below.

F

At the same time John H. Freeser was ranging the Musselshell Valley and branding a "7".

7

W. Green was on the range with Ryan Brothers and branding U and Y.

R. S. Hamilton branded "72" and ranged on Judith and Musselshell.

72

Hill and Lowther were also on the Musselshell. Their brands:

W Y

H. B. Varney's post office was Leedy His range was Squaw Creek and its tributaries. His brand was:

Norval Wallace and Joe E. Reynolds were partners. They branded K and I A . Post office: Leedy.

K

I A

LR REX 2-2
Rex Hill came in 1898 to this area. Jack Hubbard,
Del Hubbard, John Darnell and Bert Armbruster came about
1900. K4 FK DP

6-X
Ben Rogers was the first to build a home on Squaw
Creek; this was after 1886 and before 1892. He seems to
have worked for both the N and the N-N before starting
for himself. He was associated with Varney in a partner-
ship. Varney later moved across the Missouri.

Clem Smart bought sixty white face cattle in 1901.
He paid thirty dollars for his brand--the cowhead, then
bought a squatter's rights from Jack Smith not far from
the Missouri, east of the H Cross. There he ran cattle
until 1935.

P. Niles settled on Calf Creek in 1900. Branchley
Barrett settled first on a place near Glen Cessna's in
1902. Later he was on Lone Tree. He branded JX. About
1929 he moved across the river and ranched south of Malta
through the rest of his life.

C
Bob Cooper started his ranch on Spring Creek in
1889. His brand was the mule shoe. He had been in the
cattle business with his brother Steve about 1880 on the
upper Musselshell.


C
Parker Cattle Company listed their range as Sand
Creek and Little Porcupine in 1885-86. July 1 of 1883,
Parker was listed as having 10,000 cattle on the Little
Porcupine.

↔
Ryan and Levy were listed as having 13,000 cattle
on the Little Porcupine in 1883. Thus two cattle com-
panies ranging on one creek had almost as many cattle as
were assessed in Garfield County in 1935. In 1939, an-
other dry year, Garfield County had fewer than 8,000
cattle.

Bert and Raymond Storey located early on Lodge-
pole. They lost a lot of cattle one hard winter and
changed over to sheep. They branded Six Lazy S.

65
James W. Vance's range was Hell Creek, Crooked and
Woody Creek. His home ranch is now part of L. B. Binion
ranch. Vance served as county commissioner several
years.

TK

Archie Campbell ran cattle on the Lower Musselshell.
He branded: 


Conley and McTague ranged on the Big Dry, branded: 


Hightower Brothers were first to run cattle on the Lower Musselshell. This must have been as early as 1882 since the following year Ryan Brothers brought three Texas herds of 3,000 each to the Lower Musselshell.

That year John T. Murphy and David Fratt brought 6,000 cattle to Lake Basin and the Musselshell. By that autumn there were 600,000 head on range with half of them in Yellowstone and Musselshell country.

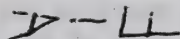
An early day cattleman named Pryor said of the expense of trail driving, "that you could drive three thousand head three thousand miles for three thousand dollars."

R. P. Haren on Big Porcupine branded: 40.


Ed Gustafson used the same range; branded: CO.


John Shannon on Lower Musselshell branded: 

Elwood and Nelson Gallinger came downriver from Fort Benton in the year 1902 to settle on south side of the Missouri across from Leedy. Elwood branded his cattle Lazy A-Lazy F. Nelson Gallinger branded: Reversed D, Lazy J attached.





Chapter XXVIII

Nomenclature

The strange ways of the West in naming areas is remarked about by Easterners but there is usually some basic reason or association with names chosen if visitors only knew.

Perhaps these are among the most picturesque:

Bone Trail
Frozen Dog School
Dirty Woman Ranch
Dead Horse Creek
Moonlight Coulee

Lodgepole Creek, so named by the Indians. They tied three lodgepoles together near the top to form a frame to hang their tepees on. North Fork, Middle Fork and South Fork join quite near together to form Lodgepole.

Gray Stud Spring

Burnt Ridge, two or three of these which have been burned over by prairie grass fires;

Soda Springs, they are just that;

Dugout Coulee is mentioned in one legal paper with Dry Fork Coulee, which is spelled two ways in the same paper.

Coffee Cooler, "Fatty", Charles F. Schultz, who had been with the military as a signal man at Fort Maginnis, was always a great one to call acquaintances whom he thought a little slow in accomplishing the task at hand, coffee coolers.

When he was finally pinned down about "Coffee Coolers", and this was long years before the "coffee break" habit came upon America, Fatty said,

"Well, a certain army captain here in Montana was sent out with his men after a bunch of Indians who had been on the war path near the present town of Baker. When it seemed that this military detachment could not help but overtake the Indians at mid-morning, the captain ordered a pause for Coffee. Wood had to be gathered, then a fire built, water boiled and coffee brewed and when that had been drunk in leisurely manner, the Indians had made their escape."

Chapter XXIX Lismas Ferry

The first ferry at Lismas was managed by a cattleman named William Kirkland who had a "tub of a boat" with a rope cable across the Missouri River. This so-called boat was on two cottonwood poles, and with this outfit you could cross one team and wagon. People could not cross the river here for hours or sometimes for days as Mr. Kirkland did not really attend to this work very diligently.

Most of the country between the Missouri and the Yellowstone was occupied by sheepmen and the merchants of Glasgow wanted their business. They urged Horace Gamas to buy the ferry business from Kirkland which he did early in 1903.

Gamas had come to Glasgow at the age of nineteen from Minneapolis, Minnesota in November, 1894. Glasgow was not much of a town at this time but it was the county seat of newly created Valley County--taken out of Dawson County in 1893--and it had a Court House. Lewis Wedium and J. L. Truscott had a general store; Gene Coleman had a hotel and the rest of the buildings were mostly log cabins.

The only occupations for this vicinity then were railroad work, cowboying, sheepherding and gambling. Gamas worked on the railroad and by 1899 was an engineer. He continued on the railroad until 1902, the year of his marriage.

His partner at the Ferry was Julius Listoe. The two men applied for a post office that fall and had to supply a name for it, so they took the first three letters of Listoe and the last three letters of Gamas--hence, the name, Lismas.

In 1904 Gamas bought out his partner.

The spring of 1905, he suffered a misfortune: the ice gorge broke up his boat and the cable. The business-men of Glasgow came to his aid and gave him the lumber to build another boat.

In rebuilding he installed a 1500 foot steel cable and put up a 60 foot tower on the south side of the river and a 40 foot tower on the north side. His new outfit was a much bigger boat and could haul four-horse teams and wagons; twenty cattle or twenty horses; 200 to 250 sheep. The new boat brought a lot of business but not too many cattle or horses as the big outfits would swim across the horses and cattle.

Gamas did haul many sheep until the years 1907-1908. About that time, the hard winters broke almost two-thirds of the sheepmen.

In the year 1910 Gamas crossed 60,000 sheep for Mr. Bair at the rate of one cent per head. Mr. Bair probably had more sheep than anyone else in Montana, but J. B. Long, Jamison and Murray were other large operators in this region.

Valley County then was from the North Dakota line to Malta, and from the Missouri River to the Canadian line. This was all grazing pasture, but in the fall sheep were trailed to the Judith Basin where they could get feed and this made it necessary for them to be ferried across the Missouri.

The only big cattle outfit nearby was the Hat X, owned by Wells and Malone, but they closed out in a few years partly because of an overabundance of sheep on the open range they were using.

Mr. Gamas ran the Ferry until 1915. In his eighty-fifth year in 1959, Mr. Gamas lives in Glasgow.

The Bow and Arrow Ranch

The Bow and Arrow ranch, also known as the "Bow-Gun", was a going concern before the hard winter of 1886-87. For a time they were ranging in the Jordan area and westward.

The years about 1894-1900, they claimed both North and South Sunday as their range. Their ranch buildings were on South Sunday Creek. During the winter of 1886-87 they suffered great livestock losses. Their brand was a bow and arrow.

Chapter XXXI Early Sheepmen

August W. Anderson, who had a sheep ranch northeast of Jordan was ranching there about 1910-12. This place was sold to L. B. Binion prior to 1946 and about this time he purchased another sheep ranch south of Jordan in the Brunelds country where he continued to ranch until his death in 1957 at the age of eighty-three.

Jim Donaldson was one of the first sheepmen in the area south of Jordan. He was located on Second Creek and had the place known as Ivory Brackett's later on.

Big Mike Wehinger ran two bands of sheep for Jim Donaldson on shares. These sheep were grazed and wintered on Smoky Butte Creek in the vicinity of Chalky Butte; then in the spring they were trailed to Sand Creek to be sheared and were summered on Sand Creek and in that vicinity.

Big Mike came here from the Pine Hills, was here at least four years. He returned to the Pine Hills when he left. The land he squatted on is now part of Paul Hom's farm. A man named Thompson had run sheep here earlier.

George Donaldson, brother of Jim, ran sheep near the head of Lone Tree. Later George Donaldson ran sheep where the Harry Ross place is. Still later he was on Wild Horse Creek.

Jim Waddington ran sheep south of Sand Springs and John Hill ran sheep on South Lodgepole before 1910.

In 1897 Percy Williamson started in the sheep business in the rough land north of Jordan. His building site was in a sandrock "blowout." He was new to the country and hired a shepherd to teach him the sheep business from the ground up. He became one of the largest operators in eastern Montana. He suffered losses in 1907 and 1916. He and Alex Innes ran sheep for a time on N-N range near Oswego and later Percy moved his sheep to the first N-N range in the Crow Rock area. His daughter carries on his work since his death.

"Little" Alex McDonald settled in the Hell Creek

area in 1897. He came from his home in Nova Scotia, Canada to Boston in 1886. A year later he came to Miles City and was employed for ten years on a large sheep ranch near there. He worked for W. E. Harris. He then started his own sheep ranch on Hell Creek.

His supplies and much of his building material were hauled from Miles City by team and wagon, a distance of about 112 miles. He changed over from sheep to cattle after this area began to have homesteaders on nearly every half section. This change proved difficult. Mr. McDonald had the sheep trucked out. A severe storm came on before he got home. The truckers couldn't get all the way to his ranch so the cattle were unloaded on the old McCants place. Many of them were never found after the storm.

George Edwards, Horace Gamas and Mr. and Mrs. Freed were running sheep in the Haxby-Lismas country by 1906.

Broadbent had sheep on Blackfoot in 1892. Later he was in the Van Norman area.

Ralph Tandy was running sheep about where the Mason Brothers live in the Woody Creek neighborhood in 1906.

E. Van Norman came from Canada and raised sheep in the neighborhood that bears his name before there were other settlers there.

Early sheepmen in the Brunelda area were Harry Van Duzen and Johnny Bell. Van Duzen made a lot of money with sheep and spent some of it drilling for oil in Devil's Basin north of Billings.

John Milroy came to the States in March, 1899 from Scotland. He first herded sheep on Cherry Creek until his wife and three children came to join him. He then bought sheep and settled on the Broadbent place at the head of Taylor Creek. In 1906 he moved to the Smoky Nicholas place where he continued raising sheep until his retirement. His sons raise sheep on the same place.

His brother William Milroy and his brother-in-law, Mr. Kerr, also came here from Scotland. William Milroy raised sheep; Mr. Kerr had cattle. Mr. Kerr died during the flu epidemic in 1919.

Chapter XXXII

Severe Storms and Hard Winters

The winter of 1903-04 was not a hard winter until the twenty-first and twenty-second day of March. Then began a terrible blizzard which began at midnight and continued for most of forty-eight hours. The sun had set behind a dark, ugly cloud that evening but ranchers had no other warning of this terrific storm.

Sheep piled up in bunches and many perished in cut coulees. Percy Williamson lost 1,500 in front of his ranch and Alex McDonald and Alex Innes skinned as many of these as possible. Innes had his own band down in the breaks of Hell Creek where shelter was good. His loss was small.

John Davidson who had 5000 wethers on Phillips Creek, west of Cohagen, never saw a live sheep from his band. The N had brought 15,000 sheep down from the Musselshell country to winter in the Blackfoot and around Smoky Butte, had 7,000 left after the blizzard.

In this storm three men who came to Stone Shack, the road ranch twenty-one miles north of Miles City, spent a day shoveling when necessary to the Sunday Creek crossing twelve miles out of Miles City but had to turn back to Stone Shack to spend the night.

Joe Biever lost 2,500 yearling sheep in a terrible snow storm at the head of Skunk Arroya Creek. Here the storm lasted most of three days and nights.

In the same storm Jim Cinnamon who was herding sheep for a man named Thompson near Chalky Butte about where Clara Bragg's place is, had to keep his sheep on the bed ground for three days. The sheep were so hungry they were eating wool from each other's backs. Cinnamon ran out of wood at the sheep wagon and chopped and burned the wagon tongue.

Thousands of cattle perished too. Some owners suffered such losses that they were out of business. John Milroy found cattle, big steers of the CK, frozen to death in a coulee.

The winter of 1906-07 was also hard on stock. Snow was deep and crusted by Thanksgiving and stayed on all winter.

Alex Innes tells of wintering on Snow Creek that year. He said that the snow was deep and crusted three times, preventing the sheep from pawing down to grass. Innes hired Joe Kempf who had a good six horse team to come over and plow snow every day. He gave Kempf the ten tons of hay he had on hand for his horses while he was plowing snow. The sheep stayed in the furrows at night. The plowing was kept up for six weeks. The cold weather began to abate the end of February. Thus Innes saved 2,700 sheep.

When Kempf's horses became badly skinned and bleeding above their feet from the crusted snow, the men skinned some dead cows and made leggins for the horses. The plows used in the snow were made of two-inch planks and were braced with iron runners and a steel nose in front. Herman Woods made two of them for Innes.

Mrs. Lee Roy, then Mrs. Freed, said the winter of 1906-7 the mail carrier did not come for six weeks--all this time was a period of severe cold. They lived forty miles from their mailbox.

Horace Gamas, operator of the ferry at Lismas for many years, tells of losing 3,000 sheep and all his horses and cattle during the winter of 1906-7, when all the coulees in that area were level full of snow and there was deep snow on the hills. Mr. and Mrs. Freed lost three bands of sheep. George Edwards lost half his band of sheep. He froze his feet and had to amputate a big toe himself. It was impossible to get to Glasgow to the doctor because of the deep snow. The run-off the following spring from this record snowfall caused the Missouri to run very high.

William Milroy, Sr., brother of John Milroy, told of losing 1,500 lambs one spring in a blizzard while he was trailing his band to Uall to be sheared. There was no available shelter.

Cowboys who were riding the night of September 2, 1911, witnessed one of the worst electric storms seen in many years. Mike Dodge and Jim Cunningham, men who had been riding the range for forty years, had never seen one so bad. Zeke Roberts mentioned that he'd seen lightning fingers jump off cattle horns before but that was the only time he ever saw fingers of lightning jump off horses' ears. Pug McMillan, who rode for the 79, said

he chewed a pound of horseshoe tobacco that night so that he could watch himself spit during the flashes of lightning.

While working for the W, Pierre Wibeaux's cattle outfit in May, 1908, Bob Eldridge, with other cowboys from this ranch, was in Miles City on the seventeenth, when a heavy snowstorm began. It continued until the twenty-third. When it stopped snowing the snow was twenty-three inches deep. Even saddle horses died in that storm which did not hit on the Big Dry.

The same month the Missouri and Musselshell Rivers flooded. The ferry operator at Kismet drowned while operating his ferry. The post office and little store at Kismet which he kept were flooded high with water.

Downriver at Long John Bottom, it was directly across the river north from the present Devils Creek Fishing Ground and there was one bottom east of it before you came to Leedy, where William Butts and Jeff Skaggs had settled several years earlier, their home had enough water in it to float some of the furniture. Butts and Skaggs then moved to the Blackfoot country where they began farming on the land where Kenneth Butts now resides. Kenneth was about six weeks old when this flood occurred.

W. G. (Zeke) Roberts told of the hail storm of July 7, 1911. The Roundup had waited near Jordan for two weeks to exchange cattle. There were four wagons in the group: the H Cross, the CK, two of the 79 wagons. The cowboys had celebrated the Fourth of July in Jordan, came back to camp the fifth; the sixth was "headache day." They were camped below the mouth of Butte Creek. On the seventh they moved over on Lone Tree. Just at suppertime the hail storm hit.

One could not see ten feet for dust. The wind was so strong men could not stand up. Dishes, food, even the stove blew away. The only thing left in camp was the rope corral. Only two horses were left caught up, when it was over.

Even the remudas panic-struck, stampeded. The two 79 remudas piled up at the head of a coulee. (There may have been 200 horses in the two remudas.) Thirteen horses

died before the cowboys got many more out.

Every man was busy for three or four days telling his troubles that resulted from the storm. For ten days they could feel bruised places where they had been hit by hailstones. While the storm was going on nearly everyone thought he might be killed by the severity of it. When they were getting the horses out that had piled up Matt Roake had blood trickling off his head and ears.

Most of the men had reached camp for supper, when the storm struck and no one was killed. Matt Roake had one 79 wagon; Eli McCuistion had the H Cross wagon. The hail made big dents in the pine mess box. Big Jim Wright was whipped over a cutbank in the storm. Berry Roberts tried to lie flat on the ground, but the wind still moved him along. He found himself clutching for grass and sagebrush.

Mrs. Charles Allen tells of teaching school on Sand Creek the bad winter of 1919. A man that lived in that community kept his team in his sod barn during the severe weather but he had little to feed them. Before spring the team had practically ruined the sod blocks of which the barn was made while nibbling and chewing on them to get the scanty nourishment from the plant roots that were in the blocks of sod. The horses died.

Near Mecaah the same year a cow outfit that branded an "X" brand, was wintering 1,100 cattle and lost 700. They had no hay and when the snow got too deep for grazing, they were having cracked corn hauled in by horses to feed. The freighters were on the road when the temperature on the Musselshell had fallen to a minus 58 degrees. Bed rolls and harness were frosty.

Dr. Allan Mackenzie of Lewistown tells of his father, Dr. Thomas Mackenzie, being marooned for two days at a ranch house four or five miles from Jordan during the winter of 1920 or 1921, when he had been called from his home west of Cohagen to attend someone ill at Jordan.

April 16, 1959, was the day of a spring blizzard, snow and cold. Sheepmen lambing on this date had a heavy loss of lambs and many calves died during the storm.

The storm of Armistice week, 1918, is one most vividly

remembered perhaps by men who were trailing their fall shipment of cattle to the railroad.

Fred LaRocque tells of being cook for the men trailing a thousand head from Missouri River brakes to Galbraith near Sumatra. Among the men in the group were George Currey, Sr., Ben Vandenberg, Scotty Embleton, Henry Bryant, Fred Kibler.

The blizzard struck them camped three miles from the shipping pens; the herd drifted and six men spent three nights and two days in a tent ten feet by twelve.

When the storm was over, they gathered the cattle, moved them on to Galbraith where they found the railroad blocked with snow, and had to hold the cattle another day.

Returning home, the men sometimes had to run the remuda through the drifts before LaRocque could get through with his team and wagon.

During the same storm, Richard Thrower and other neighbors who lived along the Missouri, had swum their cattle across the river and were trailing north to a shipping point on the Great Northern. When the storm struck, and in the succeeding days, cattle twice broke away from the herd and back trailed. When the remaining cattle were finally loaded on stock cars, the Armistice had been signed, the price of cattle had slumped alarmingly, and the cattle brought very low prices. These men came to be glad later that some of the cattle got away and went home. They were sold in following years when the price improved.

At home, Mrs. Thrower, awaiting her husband's return after the blizzard with much anxiety, wondered when the days passed, if his draft call had come; he had been expecting it; and whether he had gone on to the army. No word of the Armistice reached Missouri River residents until days after the storm. Some of the people along the river received mail from Saco or Glasgow some sixty miles to the north, or from Butte Creek about fifteen miles south.

LaRocque and companions reached Jordan the night of the second day after leaving Galbraith. The Jordan stage came in the same night, three days late, with Armistice good tidings.

Chapter XXXIII Propaganda and Pipe Dreams

The railroad companies who built railroads across Montana were as anxious as the federal government that the land be homesteaded and start producing farm products for the railroads to transport.

Jim Hill of the Great Northern had a great dream about the settling of all this vast land, the crops and wealth it could produce. He was a voluble, a personable man, able to get his ideas across as all great statesmen and good salesmen do. He went about making good speeches in the right places and soon he had many talking with him, dreaming with him; the young men with no land, the folks with no steady job, the girls longing for change and romance, older people wishing for a corner to call their own, the sailor home from the sea, and the boy fresh out of school. All these and others walked about in the haze of their pipe dreams and Jim Hill's.

With him all looked on the bright side and who was to foresee the years of drouth, poor crops, low prices, the hardships and disappointments of a new frontier?

Not the government, nor the land department of the government, which in forty years or so would grow up with these homesteaders, resolve the situation, and help with the many plans which little by little are helping to conquer the West.

Through the years the government has aided the drouthy landowners with seed loans and feed loans, Federal land mortgages, Production Credit loans, Farm Security loans, advice from county agents, and Great Plains plans.

How much better it would have been had a true survey of the situation been made first, and then land enough for a family unit been allowed to each homesteader!

One of the promotional ideas of the Northern Pacific was a pamphlet published about 1925 which titled Garfield County thus:

"Garfield County in the Pacific Northwest,
Garfield County in the New Corn Belt"

The brochure tells agricultural story of Garfield:

Information contained comes from State and Government records, farmers and business men.

"Garfield County has solved its problem---- Today it has methods well defined..... Mixed farming is basis.... Garfield County is a successful corn district. Corn is considered a safe crop. It is one of the chief feeds. Has fixed place in agriculture of Garfield County.

"Land values are low. Farm people of small means or large, seeking change, should be interested in unusual combination of advantages that Garfield County offers."

This booklet was written mostly by M. J. Conklin, formerly teacher of agriculture in the High School at Jordan.

Population in 1925 was 5,368.

Area: 3,095,680--eighty miles long and sixty five miles wide.

"Soil: Sandy loam on uplands--clay loam on some creek bottom.

"Climate: healthful and pleasant--200 days sunshine. Average 123 days between frosts. Half of annual precipitation in May, June, and July.

"In 1924, Garfield County averaged $15\frac{1}{2}$ bushels wheat on 30,000 acres seeded--25 to 30 bushels on new land or summer fallow. Beans averaged nine to fifteen bushels and flax nine bushels on new land.

"While day of big cattle outfit is largely past history in Garfield County, large numbers of small herds replacing large ones. Total of 23,000 cattle in Garfield County in 1924 or 12 to 15 cattle for every farmer.

"Garfield County is well fixed with respect to water and fuel. There are a number of springs and creeks. Surface wells at depths 10 to 60 feet. Lignite coal in all parts of county.

"Prices about 1924: \$5.00 to \$25.00 per acre. Taxes on good, unimproved, non-irrigated farms lands 10 to 15¢ per acre.

"Trade: Central, east and southeast with Miles City.

Western: Ingomar and Sumatra.
Northeast: Glasgow and Nashua.

In the back of this pamphlet Northern Pacific advertised their land to sell thus:

"The Northern Pacific Railway company, pioneer in development of the great Northwest, is anxious to see settlers of the right kind establish themselves in Montana.

They must realize that they will have to adapt themselves to Montana methods and conditions.....it has been demonstrated that in Montana they will find good places to establish homes amid pleasant surroundings. The company owns vast areas of good agricultural and grazing lands acquired direct from the United States. Purchasers of these lands may buy them direct from the company on any one of the following plans:

1. Twenty-year payment plan--one tenth down, balance amortized over 19 years with interest computed at 6%. (This to actual settlers only.)

2. Ten-year plan--one tenth down, balance in 10 equal installments at 6%.

3. Five-year plan--one-sixth down, balance in five equal annual installments at 6%.

"In any case the principal may be paid in full at any time. As a rule minerals are reserved. The above terms are subject to change at the company's option.

"What to Bring:"

Farm equipment, livestock of any kind, except horses. Good, Montana-bred horses--broke and ready to work--can be bought at very reasonable prices.

"A new settler should have at least \$3000 cash. Should plan to have sufficient reserve to carry him into second season.... "

Chapter XXXIV Homesteading

The experiences of early homestead days are best described in the letters of some of the people who participated in them.

Mrs. Marie Simonsen of Saco, wrote,

"We moved to Billy Creek in 1908 from Saco. There was a wagon road in from the north (as far as the Missouri River), but only a saddle horse trail from the south. Our supplies were hauled in from Saco after the river froze over, so we had to bring a year's supply each winter. Our mail came to the Butte Creek post office about twelve miles south of our ranch and was brought in horseback.

"Our closest neighbors were John Trotters, seven miles west on the river; L. B. Slaymaker, about ten miles south; and Hubbards, Armbrusters, and Hills, ten to fourteen miles east and south, all accessible by horseback travel only.

"Wild game was plentiful....mountain sheep and deer often grazed with the cattle. Mountain lions killed many colts and wolves killed cattle. The winter of 1916-17 was our worst winter there as the snow got so deep that the cattle were unable to get feed and the wolves took advantage of their weak condition to kill many of them.

"Some of our supplies were purchased from barges that floated down the river from Fort Benton with merchandise for Glasgow. These barges usually made one or two trips a year.

"We moved from there in 1919."....

One of the unpleasant features of homestead life bothered almost every family who lived in a log house with a dirt roof. The roofs nearly always leaked during prolonged rainy spells. Woe be to the husband whose wife had just completed spring house-cleaning.

When Mrs. Warner (Matilda) Freed's youngest son was born, a prolonged rain was in progress. The entire house was leaking. The matter was remedied by stretching a canvas tarpaulin over the bed for a canopy.

Mrs. John Osborn said they came here the year of 1905-6. They lived first on Frazier Creek. When their children were old enough to go to school, she moved down at the "Dry" two winters to send them to school. The first winter there she lived in two tents, and the next in a tent and a sheep wagon.

The first winter spent here was a very bad one. Snow was knee deep on horses and with every step, they broke through the icy crust. Mr. Osborn's sister from Nebraska visited them about Thanksgiving time and when her husband's brother took her to Miles City preparatory to going home, the snow was that deep. Her brother-in-law had to wrap the horses' legs in gunny sacking and upon reaching home they were bloody and deeply cut from travel in crusty snow.

The trip to Miles City, always made in lumber wagon, or with sled, in winter, took four days, round trip.

Mrs. Osborn and Mrs. John Viall were the only women within many miles. Other people also residents in the county at that time but farther away were Art Viall's and Mrs. Lee Roy, then Mrs. Freed.

Many of the cattle on the open range on Frazier Creek and the Big Dry were property of Hat X and 79 ranches.

When Osborn family went visiting it was for a two or three day stay. One year when they went to a Fourth of July picnic, they started the morning of the third and returned the fifth. They went to a gathering on the "Dry" where Twitchells now live and danced all night.

Mrs. Opha (Kester) Barnes lived at the Simonsen's one year and taught school in their home, as the Simoneen children were so isolated that they could attend no school. Mrs. Barnes said she was able to give each of the children two years of school work during the term, as they were all willing to apply themselves to their studies.

One of the interesting things that occurred during this term was that a steamboat again came up the river. This was a snag-puller and was called the pork barrel boat--money wasted by Congress.

Mrs. David (Myrtle) French of Jordan tells thus of early homesteading days in Garfield County:

"In a one-room log cabin among pine trees that edged one of the smaller canyons of the Seven Blackfoot, the David French family settled permanently in the year 1909. Later the 640 acres became the 'Old Homestead.'"

"After the bleakness of the North Dakota prairies, it was a thrill of delight for the children and me to prowl the hills and canyons to find where the wild strawberries were the thickest; where the gooseberries, the currants and the chokecherry thickets were located.

"Our packing-box cupboards always held some kind of jelly.

"It was not until 1910, that the log school house was finished. Mrs. John Trotter taught; Leona and Leland walked the three miles to school. Later we accumulated Old Josh, so well trained that, even with no school, he had to be forcibly induced to pass the school house.

"Our nearest neighbors were the Linebargers, Auntie and Henry. From Missouri they came, and added the hospitality of that country to that of Montana. Their long dining table was never empty of guests.

"Social life, aside from neighborly visits, centered around the school house. We held dances. Music was furnished by anyone who had and could play any kind of musical instrument from the

Jew's-harp and mouth organ to the fiddle, guitar and banjo.

"The squares, the waltzes, polkas and schottishes were pure, unadulterated by any series of lessons. You danced with abandon, jiggling on the corners and swinging your girl high.

"Fights? Yes, but when the participants stopped to take off their overshoes or discard their neckties the spectators lost the spirit of the occasion.

"The fall weather was beautiful and threshing time the most interesting event and especially important socially. It was then that women and children converged on the home of the party of the first part who had grain to be threshed, ostensibly to help with the big dinner. It was said there were more women and kids than crew. We descended on the bachelors, too. I mistakenly scrubbed off the bob-cat oil that Ben Wilson had put on his kitchen range to keep it from rusting.

"Mrs. Antrim was a clean little body. She threw out Joe William's sourdough, not leaving even a starter in the jar.

"At Auntie and Henry Linebargers, the real threshing started; six teams of horses on a horse power machine with a Case separator. Round and round, they went. If one horse lagged, it got the flick of the long whip the driver held. Sometimes the monotony was relieved by a half-broken or wild horse put in.

"There was no lack of horses in the country. I have an intuition that when the threshing equines were gathered after a night in the Devil Creek breaks that new recruits found themselves in the on-rushing herd, forced along by the whooping wranglers.

"Our mail?? Now that was a question! To those who leap out to grab the morning paper from the porch, it would doubtless seem a hardship to ride twenty miles horseback, cross the Missouri River in a rowboat, walk half a mile---and end up at the Post Office at Leedy. Yet it was done.

"Later our mail was brought from Jordan. Finally we got our own post office.

"In those days a trip to the town of Jordan--fifty miles, with a slowly moving team and wagon was in the nature of a pilgrimage, and was undertaken only in times of necessity.

"Years went by--our near neighbors consisting then of the R. N. Phipps family, the Charley Cranes, the Ernest Laipples and the Ben Wilsons. The Dave Linebarger family had come down from Lewis-town in the earlier days and the joining of the family with the Trotters gave us Maude and Jim Trotter, a dependable addition to our community. Farther away were the Barnes, the McCarters, the Lookes and the Tripps.

"It is impossible to list here the names of all of the friends who became a part of our life in later days on the home-
stead, friends we regarded with deep affection.

"Births and deaths followed in succession through the years and in the little private cemetery on the hill top that overlooked the rough Missouri breaks the young and the aged sleep peacefully, resting from their struggles that formed the foundation for the present generation."

A letter which Mrs. Mary Matovich sent to her children, Christmas, 1956:

" Since this will be my 72nd Christmas, I thought you children might like to know something about what took place in all those years.

I was born March 19, 1884, in Lika, Lovinac. My family were poor and everyone had to work, work from day break until dark. We had no schools, but when you were old enough to work, you got your diploma from the school of hard knocks. Once you learned, you never forgot.

Your Dad and I were married on November 18, 1907. We were picked out for each other by our folks. God must have guided them in choosing your father.

Your Dad left for America February 17, 1908. I had \$100 and he borrowed more from Uncle John. Uncle John was over here first.

I stayed with his dad and stepmother for three and one-half years, then he sent \$100 for my ticket. At that time he was working at Red Lodge.

On June 12, 1911, Grandpa Matovich barbecued a lamb and invited all my friends and relatives to a farewell dinner for me. The next day, June 13, I left my home, my family, my friends, my all, for a strange country. Believe me, it wasn't easy. My ticket came to \$40, and I had the rest of the money for further expenses. I went to Trieste. The ship I booked passage on was damaged, so I had to wait for the return trip of the ship Martha Washington and take it. I waited three weeks for that ship. The first rest of any kind that I ever had. The callouses on my hands were so thick you could cut them with a knife.

While waiting there, the money that I was guarding so carefully was "snitched," not by a stranger (you could trust them), but by one of my own group. I saw who had it, so I got it back again.

I was on the water 17 days and arrived in New York the last part of July. I started at once for Red Lodge, Montana. I stayed over night in DeKalb, Ill. with Papa's brother Steven. Then came straight to Red Lodge, getting there the 1st of August. Your Dad was not there to meet me, but he was down on the Musselshell,

building a little house for us and squatting on the land for our little ranch. I stayed with Uncle Phillip Matovich until October 18, when Papa came back from the ranch. We stayed that first winter and until the 15th of April in Red Lodge, where Papa had a job in the coal mine.

Then we went to Lewistown on the train. Our place was 100 miles from Lewistown and we wondered how we would get there, as neither one could speak English. Papa said for me to wait and he would go down to the river and get the neighbor's team and come for me. I started to cry at the thought of his leaving again, and told him I could go wherever he went, however he went.

So, leaving our trunk in Lewistown, we started out on foot in the afternoon and made it to Giltedge that night. We had \$300 on us, our winter's wages, so we bought a little food to take along. The next day we started toward Black Butte. We passed there and it started to get dark and rain. We met a surveyor who told us about a shack where we could stay. It rained all night and we waited until noon the next day for the rain to stop, then started toward Valentine. That night we stayed in Valentine with some people by the name of Bean. The next day we still had 30 miles of our long journey ahead of us, so we started out early in the morning.

Uncle Martin's horse happened to be there so we took turns riding him. We also took turns riding on the stage with the mail-carrier.

About 10 o'clock that night we arrived at our home. The floor was dirt, so was the roof, but it was home--our home!

The next morning I asked Papa where the water was, and he pointed to the Musselshell river. I didn't know what a bog hole was and I started right across the thing and did I fall in! I had a terrible time getting out of that place and was I a mess.

Papa made that long trip on foot five times. Two times finding it and then three later when he went back and forth to Red Lodge to spend the winters working in the mine.

On the 17th of July, 1912, our baby boy, Marcus was born.

That summer, Papa went seven miles away, on foot, to help put up hay. He came home every week after midnight on Saturday

and would leave Sunday right after noon. He worked there for two months for \$2.00 a day.

With the \$300 we had with us, we bought three mares and two colts. The year before, Papa bought five head of cattle. A wolf killed one, another broke its leg, so three head of cattle and five horses were all we had.

On Sept. 8, 1912, Papa left for Red Lodge again, and stayed until April, around the 25th, when spring opened up. When he left for Red Lodge, Marcus was asleep in the house and I went out and sat in front of the house praying, as I always did. It was almost dark and a man came along dragging a halter. I was scared. I figured if I ran, he would think I was crazy and if I stayed he might hurt me. I just waited to see what he would say. He was a trapper, named Dan Dale. I couldn't understand what he wanted, so the next day he came back with Joe Bush and wanted to know if I had seen his horses. I told him where I had seen them. After that, he always sent me meat when he killed a deer.

That winter Mr. Leedy made a raft and floated it full of groceries from Ft. Benton down the Missouri river to Ft. Misselshell. He gave Mrs. Rukavina and me a winter's supply of food on trust. Why he trusted us, we will never know, but, God love him, he did. Papa went back to Red Lodge that fall and borrowed the money to pay Mr. Leedy for the food. In those days, people were all in the same boat and we had to trust one another, not like it is in these days when the lawyers make the laws and we try to live and abide by them.

We had a team of mares, so we could plow. Papa held the plow and I held the lines.

In the last part of March, in 1913, we had a terrible flood, when the ice went. The water and ice ran in and out of our house. I had fled to the hills and had forgotten to shut the door. Old Man Bush took care of the baby and I got six head of cattle out of the corral. With the rushing water, ice and logs I thought I would never make it. I spent that night with Mrs. Rukavina. She was home alone with her three kids, too. The next day the river went down and I went home. There was a big chunk of ice on my bed. It was a terrible sight. Mr. Fox had nine dead cows scattered from Uncle Martin's to Joe Bush's, where the river just came so fast and took them. That Misselshell river really came with a lot of force when it went out--you kids can remember that. There were 70 bridge

lanks washed up on the banks of the river. Where they came from we ill never know. One good thing, we did get our sweet clover seed rom that flood. We don't know where that came from either, but we are glad to have it.

Little by little we got the things we needed. The first pieces f machinery we had were a walking plow and old mowing machine we ought from Mr. Bean. I believe that mowing machine is still around ere some place.

In 1917 Uncle Martin was drowned in the Missouri river. He as crossing the ferry when the cable broke and a pulley hit him on he head. That was a terrible shock to all of us.

By 1919 we had six children: Marcus, Anna, Agnes, John, Philip and Martin and were \$9000.00 in debt. Some of you think you ave it rough, what would you do if you were in my shoes---couldn't speak the English language, couldn't read or write? It was also n 1919 that we bought the Paul Herman place and put \$1500.00 down n it and lost it. That year we lost 66 cattle out of 200 from old and starvation.

The next three years turned out pretty good and we paid off ur debts. I was so sick from all the hard work I couldn't lift a .0-pound pail of potatoes, but the dear Lord gave back my health without a doctor or anything.

In 1921 when David was born, Grandpa Matovich came to make his home with us. He came to America before with Uncle Martin and thought all would be like it was in the old country--the boys ould make the money and give it to him, but it didn't work that ay. Uncle Martin kept his money and in Grandpa's final attempt o get some of that money he challenged Martin to a poker game and Uncle Martin cleaned him--he got disgusted and went back. Then he ame back to America and stayed with us until 1929 when he went to Canada with Uncle Dan. Then he came back and lived with us from 1934 until 1936 when he died from a stroke.

Paul was born in 1922, Mary in 1924, and George in 1925.

During the years I was raising my family I never was over two miles from home. You will never know how many pails of water I carried from that river. The day before I was to wash I would carry 14 buckets of water. 97

I always had heavy work to do and never missed putting up hay. Anna raised all the children with Agnes helping her along, God love them, they were so young and had to work so hard. Remember the good bread they baked and how much of it you hungry kids could eat? Agnes did most of our sewing as she still does mine today.

In 1929 we bought our first automobile, a "Chevy" truck. You all remember that. Wasn't that a thrill?

In 1931 we drilled our artesian well, thinking we would build a house. Papa cut 30 trees a day, then we sawed them in pieces and a four horse team hauled them away. I piled all the branches and burned them, just as I had 20 years before, when we were clearing our land. We sawed the lumber and even had the cement, when the Ft Peck dam was to be built and we decided it wouldn't be the practical thing to do, so we took the cement back to Winnett. I guess the rocks are still in the same place we piled them.

We got our first car in 1935. I had walked, ridden a boat, a train, a truck, then finally a car. And now, thanks to Clete Huff, I have even taken two trips on an airplane and enjoyed that, too.

It was hard to lose your Dad. He lived just like he died. Thank God I had him as long as I did and that he was not permitted to suffer too much. Having you wonderful children has helped a lot.

Chapter XXXV

Medicine in Garfield County

Among the doctors who homesteaded in this area about 1914-16 were Dr. Lon Keith and Dr. D. W. Battin.

Dr. Keith's homestead was near the old H Cross ranch. At times he scarcely had time for farming because he was called to the homes of many sick folk. He went about on a saddle horse in all kinds of inclement weather wearing woolly chaps like the cowboys.

Mrs. Matilda Freed and her husband settled on the Missouri River at Sixth Point about 1905. Mrs. Freed was one of the first registered nurses to come to Miles City, and for a time before moving on the Missouri River, she had a small hospital in Miles and was assisted by Mrs. William Uhl, then Ada Hirth.

During her homesteading days here Mrs. Freed went many miles to take care of the sick. She also spent a time in South America working in a government hospital there, later returning to this area where she and her husband engaged in ranching. Mrs. Freed, now Mrs. Lee Roy, is living in Seattle.

Mrs. Mahoney (Ada Hirth) moved to a homestead on the Big Dry below Jordan. Her son Hirth lives on this place.

Mrs. John Darnell who had one of the first small hospitals in Miles City, moved on the Missouri River in 1900 with her family. They lived on the north side of the river first, then moved across the river into what was then Dawson County. She, too, took care of sick neighbors.

Mrs. Paul (Lillian) Smith was a practical nurse who lived on Lodgepole Creek. She was often taking care of sick folks and her snapping dark eyes and her buoyant good spirits endeared her to all. She was born at Kingman, Arizona, in gold rush days and lived all her life

on the frontier. She died at Roundup in April, 1950.

Miss Hattie Dye, a nurse who homesteaded in the Dilo community often went horseback to attend the sick.

Mrs. Fred (Nellie) Kinney came to the Brusett area in 1912. The next year the Butte Creek post office was established in the Kinney home. Mrs. Kinney spent much time acting as nurse and midwife. During these years she delivered sixty-three babies. For several years she lived at Rosebud. She passed away in August, 1959. She and Mr. Kinney were buried at Butte Creek in the cemetery that is located on a part of their homestead.

A doctor named MacIntyre lived in the Wason Flats country about 1910-13. People came many miles to him. Rather recently he lived for a time in Miles City.

Dr. Thomas A. Mackenzie, Scottish born and Scottish educated, came to Miles City in 1904 to practice medicine. Here he continued until 1915. He joined the Canadian Army and served as a doctor in that army and that of the United States until 1920. He then filed on a homestead near the Freedom post office.

Dr. Mackenzie was constantly being called to homes of sick neighbors both near and far during the year he spent here. He again returned to Miles City and resumed practice there. He passed away two years later, death attributed to disease contracted during his station in Mesopotamia.

Before about 1914 all medical care was given by any individual that had some idea of what should be done for different conditions, and since most of the people were young, and in good health, most conditions that required medication were a result of accidents, such as fractures, frost bites, snake bites, gun shot wounds.

In 1914 when the homesteaders began coming in in great numbers, there were still no regular doctors to care for the sick but with families coming in there were babies being born and sickness that developed in babies and children. The mothers were cared for by other women in the area who had had some experience in births, and on many occasions the husband had to act as the midwife.

Raymond Ward, seven year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Ben Wilson, was lost in the breaks near their home in the Blackfoot country on the 19th of December. He was not found until the afternoon of the 21st.

Raymond went out hunting rabbits in the morning with two dogs that belonged to Wilson and Mr. Laipple. Soon after he was out of sight of his home a heavy fog developed and he was unable to find his way home.

Almost as soon as Mr. Wilson noticed his absence he built up a big fire on a hill, and then called and called. The little boy thought he heard coyotes and he saw the fire but he did not think of that as being the way home.

He wandered about with the dogs, ate snow when he was thirsty. He saw a car going toward some buildings but it turned and came back as if no one had been at home so he did not go on to this ranch and kept wandering. At night he slept with his coat for a cover, while all the neighbors hunted. The next day he wandered again with the dogs, and that night slept with his coat for a cover.

He was found after noon of the third day by Charles Phipps and Ed Nichols, and suffered no ill effects from exposure. His mother said for awhile he seemed very thin, but he made a good recovery.

On a winter day, when the ground was covered with snow, and it was still snowing hard and fast and blowing a rather high, cold wind so the snow was whirling, twisting and drifting, Lytle Williams a Montana born man of perhaps twenty-five years or thereabout, stopped in at the Tindall post office for his mail.

He said he was going about two miles up the road to spend the night and the next day or so visiting in the James Bowman home. As it was then about four o'clock in the afternoon, Mrs. Tindall suggested he better not try it as it would soon be dark. But Williams thought he could make it and went on.

When he came back a couple days later, Mrs. Tindall asked him how he got along. He answered that he had become confused, got off the way, then was lost completely, so he kept going until he came to the bank of a coulee: then dug himself in the sheltered side of the coulee; sat down and let the snow drift over him.

The next morning he dug himself out and as the storm was over he could look around, get his bearings, and being no worse for the unaccustomed lodging walked on up to Mr. Bowman's and spent the day and night.

Vern Caldwell, in a similar storm left Sam Witt's to go to his home a mile west, became confused and was lucky hours later to walk into Spence Newell's a mile south and east of his starting point.

Mrs. Bert Armbruster, then Jessie Darnell, was lost all one night in the Missouri breaks in 1902 or 1903. It was, however, in warm weather. She was found by her mother next morning as she rode home from nursing at a neighboring home.

Chapter XXXVII

Churches

Churches and religious services were slow in coming to eastern Montana. There were difficulties of distances, poor transportation facilities, and many hardships.

The first public church services of Christian worship held anywhere in eastern Montana were in Miles City on January 12, 1879 by Rev. J. D. Hewitt, the Presbyterian minister at Helena. The temperature was a minus thirty-five degrees when he arrived in Miles City.

One of the first ministers to hold services and to minister to the people of the Big Dry country, was Rev. C. E. Fenton, Methodist minister at Forsyth. He conducted services in homes and schoolhouses some forty-five years ago. He went from ranch to ranch, and from schoolhouse to schoolhouse horseback.

He was a man much admired by the people among whom he worked. If he rode up to call when a farmer was haying, he dismounted and began pitching hay. At one home in Montana, he stopped in during the midst of haying season and finding the mother of the family too ill to cook for her family or the hay crew, he walked into the kitchen and prepared meals and washed dishes for most of a week.

Among the homesteaders of the area were several ministers who conducted church in their homes or at local schoolhouses and who now and then married a couple who had sent by mail to far-off Glendive for a marriage license, and who then might ride horseback to the home of a minister for the marriage ceremony.

One of these homesteadin' ministers was Rev. U. G. Adkins of the Seventh Day Adventist faith whose home was on Blackfoot Creek. Another minister was Rev. Hoffman, a Baptist minister, who homesteaded east of Dilo. Their home was destroyed by fire. Olaf Sutherland, a Lutheran minister, preached in the Rock Springs-Crow Rock area several years in the twenties and thirties.

Charles N. Woodin of the Blackfoot neighborhood was a minister of a Reformed branch of Later Day Saints.

Rev. W. W. Landis, a minister who had homesteaded on Sand Creek, was the first minister of the first community church in Jordan. People of every faith present in the neighborhood contributed to the beginnings of this church, its Ladies Aid, and Sunday School. Some hoped it would remain undenominational, but it became a Presbyterian Church when it was deemed necessary to obtain a loan to complete the building.

For many years this church received part of its support from the Mission Board but it is now self-supporting. While Rev. William G. Johnson was minister, he also preached regularly at the schoolhouse in the Phon community where the Wheeler, Kibler, Howard, Wickersham, Grant and Mason families lived. Of these families only the Masons remain in that neighborhood.

Among the ministers who have served this church are: Landis (he later lost his eyesight), Rev. Wm. G. Johnson, Rev. Samuel G. Allen, Rev. William G. Johnson, Rev. Powers, Rev. James Lyon, Rev. Paul Freligh, and Rev. Archie McPhail.

The Seventh Day Adventist Church was first organized in Jordan by Elder S. W. Munro in 1929. For about a year the Lane Hall was used for church meetings. The Sabbath School began in 1929. Church was held in the homes then until the building of the church in 1936. This church has a membership of forty. The pastor at this time is Rev. Larry Lewis of Glendive.

Rev. T. E. Mack was the first Baptist minister at Steves Fork. It was under his leadership there that the church building was built. Rev. Mack also preached at Tindall, Blue Ridge and other schoolhouses.

Ministers who followed him: Rev. Danley, Rev. Milam, Rev. Faulkner, Rev. Beck and again Rev. Milam. Rev. Danley also preached at Cohagen. At Tindall schoolhouse, Sunday School was held two or three years. Later young people's meetings were held instead of Sunday School.

The first Lutheran services were held in Jordan by Rev. D. Bergstedt. He came to this area in 1916 and left in 1922. At first services were held in private homes. During the first five years of his stay here Rev. Bergstedt's transportation was a horse and two-wheeled buggy.

Rev. O. H. Laemmle came to Jordan in July, 1922 and served the following communities: Angela, Hillside, Meredith, Cohagen, Southwest Jordan and Jordan. Services in Jordan were held on second floor of Lahn's Hall. Until August of 1922 the services in Jordan were in German. Later services were held in the dining-room of Nergaard Hotel.

Work on the church building was started in 1923 and the basement was covered and used as a temporary church.

Other pastors to serve this church were: Rev. J. Maier, Rev. John Bunge. The church was completed in 1931. Rev. Maske came to the church in 1937. That year St. John's and Zion Congregations merged. Rev. T. Kurtz came in 1938. Rev. Moldenhauer served from February of 1946 until December 1947 and returned twice after that.

The Wason Flats church is a branch of this church. The manse was completed in 1949. Rev. Kubik succeeded Rev. Moldenhauer.

Henry A. Wagner, father of Harold Wagner, homesteaded near Brunelda in 1912. Sunday School was started in his home, a sod house, in 1915 and was moved to the Indian Creek schoolhouse in 1919 and continued there until in 1947 when it was closed. This is the rural Sunday School which continued for the longest period of time in this area.

The Assembly of God Church at Jordan started about 1942 in a vacant store building on Main Street. The present building was purchased in 1949. It had been a saloon at one time, later housed the AAA offices. *

In 1953 and 1954 a new front was added to the building and three bedrooms and bath were added to the living quarters at the back of the building.

The work of this church was started by Miss Eunice Munger about 1941; Miss Ruby Holmstrom and the McKnight sisters were here in 1943 and in 1944 the McKnight sisters were in charge. During the next two years the pastor was Rev. Carl Hines. In 1947-48 Rev. Dennis Finch was here. In 1949-50 Rev. Julius Braun was pastor and he was succeeded by Rev. Wm. J. Sanders. From 1952 to 1956 the pastor was Rev. A. E. Arney. From November of that year until June of 1958 Rev. Marvin Seiler served. Then Rev. M. J. Strandberg became pastor.

This work has been under district supervision from the beginning and is not an organized congregation. There are two outstations at the present time, Steves Fork and Sand Springs. Altogether the church ministers to about twenty-two families.

Jordan homesteaders had their first Mass in 1914.

In 1913 and 1914 the land around Jordan began to be settled by homesteaders, among whom were many Catholics: the Fitzgeralds, Murphys, Alexanders, O'Tooles, Kellys, Sullivans, Pfeifers, Feigels, Gavans, Hensleighs, Maloneys, John Murnion, and Mike Schneller. An estimated one hundred Catholic families were living in and around Jordan at that time.

In the spring of 1914 a meeting of Catholics was held in Jordan to secure a priest. The appointed committee contacted the Rev. J. J. O'Carroll of Miles City. He agreed to say Mass in Jordan once a month in summer months and at other times when the road was passable. At that time there was only a wagon trail from Miles City to Jordan.

Mass was first said in the schoolhouse. From 1914 to 1922 Mass was said by either Father O'Carroll or the Rev. John Leahy in the schoolhouse, the Jordan Hall, and once in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Purcell.

On November 26, 1921, I. C. Attix donated two lots to the Bishop of Great Falls for the building of a church. Parishioners collected funds and purchased a building in the county which was later moved to the Attix lots. This served as a church until the completion of St. John the Baptist's Church.

Father Pius came from St. Labre's Mission in 1922 to be pastor of Sacred Heart Church. Later Father Case was pastor for a short time, and then Jordan again became a mission of Miles City. Officially Jordan was a mission of Miles City from 1914 to 1921; of Circle from 1921 to 1935; of Miles City from 1935 to 1947; and of Circle from 1952 to the present time.

On September 29, 1934, and July 6, 1936, lots were purchased in the townsite for the construction of St. John the Baptist's Church. Begun in the summer of 1936, the church was dedicated the following summer by Bishop O'Hara. The Rev. John Kendrigan was installed as pastor of Jordan on July 9, 1947. The Rev. Peter Gedvila served as pastor from 1950 to 1952.

At one time there were three Catholic churches in Garfield County, located at Jordan, Sand Springs, and in the Uall community east of Cohagen. Only the church in Jordan remains.

*The Assembly of God Church first held services in a tent on one of Jake Fellman's lots.

Chapter XXXVIII
Schools

Old Cowmen: "Where there's land enough to run cows, there's not kids enough to have schools!"

The first school in Jordan was held in 1903; the first school at Leedy was in 1904; and the first at Mosby was in 1907.

At this time, the land here was not yet open for homesteading so there was no land tax. Money for schools seemed to accrue very slowly.

The only property to be taxed was household goods and machinery of which there was very little, and live-stock: cattle, horses, and sheep.

The county assessors could not count all the live-stock and locate the rightful owners to tax, maybe living and ranching in another county seventy-five or a hundred miles farther off. Many people did not, or could not, turn in an accurate count on their wandering stock.

The early schools were usually held for only two or three months at a time, for the money to pay the teacher usually petered out that soon, even though the patrons of the school often furnished a building free, built by co-operative efforts from pine or cottonwood logs. Sometimes they made desks and other school equipment.

At the Leedy and Gallinger schools the children may have fared a little better than in some other communities.

Leedy was on the north side of the river in Valley County; the Gallinger school was in Dawson. When money for one school was exhausted the other school on the Opposite side of the river would hire a teacher, usually the same one, and the teacher would move to the other school. The children from the school just closed, would cross the river daily by boat, as the other children had done before.

Mrs. John F. Trotter, one of the pioneer teachers of the area, came here in 1906 with her husband, son and daughter. They had lived for awhile at Opheim. Mrs. Trotter said they came across the Missouri in a leaky boat and she found herself bailing water all the way. Mr. Trotter settled at the mouth of Blackfoot, on a place squatted on earlier by his brother George who had built the log house they lived in. Trotter killed the last black bear seen in this region.

During the next twenty-five years Mrs. Trotter spent much of her time teaching in rural schools. Her first school was at Leedy. Other schools that she taught were Gallinger, Linebarger, Timber Creek (in Valley County), Simonsen (mouth of Billy Creek), MacDonald, at old Fairview Hall for about seven years, Purewater, and another near Chalky Butte. This school was held in the Nels Ringheim home and Mrs. Trotter boarded most of the pupils who attended. Mrs. Trotter also boarded pupils when she taught at the Linebarger and Simonsen schools.

Perhaps she almost originated the dormitory system as it has been used here in this area for schooling youngsters. Anyone who bedded and boarded her pupils besides teaching them a six hour day and who could say at four o'clock on Friday:

"I hate for Friday to come; I like to teach so well." was surely a born teacher.

The Edwards schoolhouse was built about 1916 or 1917. Miss Maude Miller, sister of Mrs. Roy Edsall and Mrs. Lawrence Swanser, was the first teacher.

The first school in the Crow Rock area was held in a sheep wagon near the head of Crow Rock Creek about 1910.

The Wild Horse school was first started about 1907 and was held in John Milroy's bunkhouse until 1911 when a new school was built on Wild Horse. School was held here until 1912 when it burned down. School was then held in a dugout which the Milroy family had made to live in while at school. While school was held in the dugout, the Milroy children had to drive a long distance to school with team and wagon. In 1913 another school

building on Wild Horse which was there until 1930, when it, too, burned down.

The first school at Mosby was held in 1907. At that time the school district reached from the Missouri River to the Rosebud County line.

The first school in the Ross neighborhood on the Musselshell was held in 1908 or later for the Carl Nordahl children. Mrs. Nordahl rode horseback seventy-five miles to attend a school board meeting in Fergus County to ask for a school for her children. The school board knew that the Nordahl family were residents of another county but they were so impressed by Mrs. Nordahl's interest in school and the distance she had come to attend the meeting that they provided a teacher for a school lasting three months and paid the teacher.

When the homesteaders came about 1914 schools were held in shacks and about 1917 contract schools were built by newly organized districts.

The first school in the Harby area seems to have been the one at the mouth of Crooked Creek. This was built by people of the community: Hansen had the logs, Scott Currey had a sawmill and donated the lumber. Hansen, Currey, Nation, who had children to attend the school donated labor as did cowboys and others who had no need for a school. The first term here was in 1914.

In a few years most of the people who had children were gone from this vicinity, and, as one cowboy said, "The schoolhouse came up missin'. I wondered where it went and saw it later at Phon where there were lots of pupils."

The Blue Ridge and Enterprise schools north of Benzien were good log buildings built by the men of the neighborhood.

Tindall schoolhouse was a log building and was put up by members of the community. It was built the winter of 1913-14. When completed in February there was no snow. Mr. O. F. Trace was the first teacher.

School was held at Leedy in 1904. Miss Myrtle Evans of Fort Benton (later Mrs. Brim Barrett) was the first teacher. Molly Leedy and some of the Gallingher children from south of the river attended. Nancy Trotter was the second teacher at Leedy and Mrs. John F. (Cora) Trotter was the third teacher here.

Mrs. Rena McKeever was the first teacher of the school near Joe MacDonald's south of Smoky Butte. She later served two terms as County superintendent of schools.

Mrs. Viola Nordquist was an early teacher in the lower Musselshell Valley as was Mrs. Ida B. Kelley who was later county superintendent of schools.

The first school district on the Musselshell River reached from the Missouri River on the north to the Rosebud county line. Lem Benton served on the first school board and his children, grand children and great grandchildren have attended the Mosby school.

The first school in Jordan was held in 1903 and was presided over by a man called "Society" Brown. It is doubtful if that really was his first name. Then followed Miss Thorsen, Fannie McGibboney (later Mrs. Joe Kempf, _____ Vance, _____ Vance, Fritz, Fritz, Ernest, Ernest. Louise Lowre was also an early teacher here. She remembers going with team and buggy to the Hooker ranch in the Blackfoot after a Christmas tree. It took all day to go and come.

The first school had about six pupils. Among the first pupils were the Broughton and Arthur Jordan children. The school was in a dugout at first in the bank south of where the new county hospital stands.

Mary Ausland (Mrs. Charles E. Allen) taught in Jordan during the years 1912 through 1916.

The first high school graduating class in Jordan was in 1917. Hazel Maben (Mrs. Earl Frady) and Ethel Thomas were the first two graduates.

Cohagen as well as Jordan had an accredited four year high school for many years. The expense of keeping two high schools going in a scantily populated area made

it feasible to close one high school and Cohagen with the smaller enrollment was the one closed. Cohagen had a dormitory for high school students living at a distance.

Cohagen has a new two-room grade school.

Garfield County High School usually has an enrollment of about one hundred pupils. The high school dormitory is about twenty-three years old. It will house about fifty students and is the largest high school dormitory in Montana. Some of the pupils residing there live fifty to eighty miles distant. Mrs. Edith Newland and Mrs. Pearl Whitmer have both served as matron several years.

The Jordan Public School has six teachers and an enrollment of about 136 pupils. There are thirty-six rural schools in the county.

In 1921 there were thirty summer schools in the county--schools that opened in March and ran until November.

In earlier years there were more than eighty rural schools.

The Billing School became a "Standard School" in 1931. Gladys Frazier Wilson was teacher at this time. The school closed in 1936 because of no pupils but was reopened in 1950 and is called the Van Norman School now. The first school here was established in 1915 in the bunk house on the Adam Maxwell ranch; teacher, Lola Lamphere Sankey; four pupils:- Howard and Edith Billing, Ava Roebuck (Mrs. Duncan McDonald) and Irene Hafdahl.

The Lone Tree School and the Sand Springs schools were also "Standard" schools for a time.

At the Taylor Creek school in the twenties the pupils mostly lived quite a distance from school. Bill Milroy's, Art Jacobsen's, and Hurt's each had a bunkhouse at the school site. In severe weather the mothers and children batched at the school; the fathers batched at home. Ethel Welborn taught here in 1925-26. At Spring Creek school, Mrs. John Murry lived in a little house at the school all the years her children attended there.

Chapter XXXIX Post Offices

In the settlement of a large area of land where people feel that they are isolated in great degree, the U. S. mail forms a strong link with the settlers' former associates. When the Big Dry country was settled, the homesteaders had little communication with the rest of the world except by letters and newspapers. There were no radios, or telephones, and the several local papers which started publication were issued no oftener than once a week. They contained little "back home" news to people who had come here from perhaps every other state in the Union and from several foreign countries.

It was the day of the saddle horse and the lumber wagon. Travel and mail were exceedingly slow over country trails.

Once settled in dugout, sod shanty, log cabin, or frame shack, the next yen of the honyocker and his wife was for the mail and a post office handy. Little post offices were soon opened here and there throughout the region to accommodate the people. Often the homesteader who had the post office would also lay in a good supply of groceries and have a store at his home.

Mrs. Lee Roy tells that when they lived on the Missouri in 1905-6, they went forty miles to their mail box. During the severe winter of that year, their mail carrier was unable to make the trip around the route for six weeks. Compared with this, later settlers had much better mail accommodations.

About 1919 there were more than thirty post offices in Garfield County, but soon after "proving up" on their homesteads many people sold their land to a neighbor, rented it, or just left it and went away; many post offices were closed and the fewer patrons remaining were served often only by a mail route.

Some post offices received mail three times a week, some twice, some once, and the routes continue about the same to this day.

When the Tindall post office was first opened at the R. C. Tindall home by Mrs. Olive Tindall, some of its patrons had been getting their mail occasionally from Sumatra in Rosebud County more than forty miles away. Mrs. Tindall served as postmaster

here for twenty-one years and when the Tindall family moved to Carolina the post office was closed. At one time there were more than one hundred people receiving mail at Tindall post office. (In 1960 the population west of Sand Springs is probably no more than three or four families to a township.)

Mrs. Tindall was a busy person who cared for the mail, milked several cows, helped with most community affairs, including church and the Homemakers Club which continued for many years on South Fork. Mr. and Mrs. Tindall adopted four orphaned brothers and sisters, raised and educated them. When a death occurred and no minister was available, Mrs. Tindall would conduct the funeral service. She served her community in this way more than twenty times.

The Benzien post office was named for the Herman Benzien family on whose homestead the post office was built. Benzien was here by 1914, perhaps earlier. The first postmaster was Mrs. Rose Cohen. Her brother-in-law and sister, the Sol Kays, had a grocery store here from about 1915 until the homesteaders began to thin out and grocery sales lessened until the Kays decided it was no longer profitable to continue there and moved to Ingomar. Mrs. Cohen moved away, too. Mrs. Margaret Gurnett became postmaster and served until about 1933. Hazel Hiett and Lillian Johnson had the post office later.

The Bowmanville post office on North Fork of Lodgepole was established about 1914. Mrs. Bowman ran it for about a year and was succeeded by Mrs. Margaret McGlumphey in 1915. The office was moved to her home and the name was changed to Dilo. While Mrs. McGlumphey had the post office, the Wischert Hall which her brother, Dr. Wischert, had built on his homestead, was moved to McGlumphey's and added to their house and was used there as a community meeting place.

The Dilo post office management changed in 1921 or 1922 from Mrs. McGlumphey to Mrs. Alice Johnson and she was postmaster until she moved away in 1932.

Kismet, at the mouth of the Musselshell, on the east side was established previous to 1903. The mail was carried to Kismet from Jordan past the old Bob Cooper place on Spring Creek.

In 1908 there was a large flood and the river ran from hill to hill. It flooded all the river bottom and flooded everyone out. That put an end to Kismet post office at that place.

About a mile below the mouth of the Musselshell, the postmaster ran a ferry boat and he was trying to cross the swollen river with his ferry and drowned.

Some of the cowboys dived in under the door of the Kismet store and got some Stetson hats off the top shelf of the store which was also run by the postmaster. The water was just even with the top of the door at that time.

Kismet store had been receiving supplies via steamboat. On July 4, 1908 the widow had a sale of the water-damaged goods. All the people above the Musselshell gathered at the UL Ranch across the river from the Town Ranch. Then the steamboat came along and picked everyone up all along the river and took them down to the Kismet store for the sale. Later the steamboat took everyone back up to the UL Ranch where there was to be a big dumplin' and chicken dinner. Upon arrival at the UL, the guests found a large boiler cooking, full of chickens with about half their feathers still unplucked. The two cooks, George Bickles, an old roundup cook, and "Dad" Hickman, were both drunk on the floor.

Mrs. Town and Mrs. Walt Fletcher got the chickens out of the hot water and repicked them and the crowd eventually got chickens and dumplings.

A short time after this the Kismet post office was re-established at the UL Ranch with Arthur Lewis as postmaster. The ranchers took turns carrying the mail from Leedy about thirty miles downstream.

In 1912 Mr. and Mrs. Walter Fletcher came back to the neighborhood and settled at the mouth of the Musselshell on the west side. Kismet post office was abandoned at the UL Ranch and people got their mail at Fletcher's known as Fort Musselshell. A ferry, store, and saloon were here. Mr. Fletcher died in February, 1914 but his wife continued with the business for a time, then sold out to John Caster who was here until 1922.

The post office was then moved three miles upriver and John Town became postmaster and the name of the post office was changed to Bervie. It was named after a little town in Ontario, Canada where John Town's mother spent her childhood.

Bervie was abandoned when Fort Peck Lake filled up. People in that vicinity now get their mail on the route which still comes down the river from Mosby. Roy Gibson has been carrying this mail for many years.

"Old Man" Germaine lived in a dugout on Germaine Coulee. (It was named for him.) He carried mail to Kis-met or Fort Musselshell from Miles City. Later it was carried from Jordan.

When the homesteaders began to come in about 1911 and 1912, Kirk and Nellie Antrim started a post office in the Blackfoot country. It was closed about 1916. The Antrim place joined the Clyde Proue homestead on the south.

Then Trouble post office opened at the Duncan home. When this post office moved again it was called Haxny. It was at the Tom Fullerton ranch many years. When it closed about 1935, people got their mail on a route from Brusett.

The Uebra post office, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. George W. Shawver on Indian Creek, was started in 1919 after a petition was circulated. Mrs. McGlumphey, who had the post office at Dilo, made out the papers. Mr. and Mrs. Shawver and other patrons who had lived in Nebraska wanted to call their little post office for their native state, Nebraska.

Mrs. McGlumphey wrote everything fast and she made her capital "N's" like capital "U's" and "M's" like "W's"; she abbreviated whenever possible, so the people on Indian Creek found themselves living at Uebra instead of Nebraska, Montana.

Wilson Cory was the first mail carrier. He used horses and buggy. Later Walter Pollard carried mail. When the Shawver family moved to California, Mr. and Mrs. Jas. Waters took the post office, and later on Mr. and Mrs. G. O. Chamberlain. It closed about 1936.

Jordan, county seat of Garfield County had a population of approximately 750 in 1950. It has decreased since then. Its founder, Arthur Jordan, squatted on land here in 1896. His first home on the Big Dry was a tent.

Three years later, he opened a general store and his customers were cowboys who wanted not only tobacco, groceries, and range land supplies like lariats and new saddle cinches, but mail delivered more quickly from "back home."

The post office, too, was established in 1899, and Arthur Jordan requested that it be named "Jordan" for his friend of that name who operated a big ranch supply house in Miles City.

The first mail carrier was Bill Broughton; the first mail route was a circuitous one through the Sheep Mountains and up the Big Dry to Jordan, thence back to Miles City by a cross country route near the present highway.

When the mail came in, it was dumped on the floor in one corner of the store and the patrons hunted out their own mail. Later there was a small corner partitioned off in the store for the post office and there were call boxes also. And by that time the Jordan post office issued money orders, but not at first.

Arthur Jordan's store building was partly a dugout in the bank and stood about where the Rest Home is now. W. C. Henderson bought Jordan out about 1903, formed a partnership with Frank Kramer, moved to a log building on what is now Main Street. Their business increased; they enlarged the store once by building an addition on the west side.

After Frank Kramer's death, Henderson operated the store alone until he sold out to a Mr. Baldwin in 1913. Mr. Baldwin sold out to Sterling C. West, after a year or two. Mr. West operated the store and expanded its services greatly until the early 1930's when he sold it to Bert Homer.

Sometime about 1903 or 1904, mail was also carried to the Jordan post office from Forsyth. The mail got a good soaking a few times. The mail carrier from Forsyth came horseback when the snow was going off one spring. He had swum his horse across one of the Porcupine Creeks or Sand Creek and dampened

his first class sack real well. The letters it contained that were written in ink were smeared until they couldn't be read. The ones written in pencil were more legible.

When the mail was finally brought directly to Jordan from Miles City there was still no bridge across the Big Dry or Sand Creek. Most of the road was just a trail across the prairie. In good weather the mail was carried by horses and a light spring wagon. One trip when a young lady who was to teach in the local school was a passenger, the Big Dry was running quite a stream of water. This caused the spring wagon to upset at the fording. A young cowboy from a nearby ranch was right there and jumped in and rescued the teacher but was unable to latch onto all the mail that was floating so much of it went downstream. Charlie Allen recalls that he'd ordered western boots that went down with the flood and months later he found a single boot hung up in a tree miles down the Dry. Big Mike Wehinger, ranching in the Butte Creek neighborhood, lost the new sewing machine he had ordered from the catalog.

Mail was also brought to Jordan for many years from Glasgow, miles north of the Missouri River. This mail was carried to Lismas and then ferried to the south side. It was then carried up the Big Dry to Jordan by another mail carrier. Martin Brothers and later Charles L. Campbell carried this mail many years.

About the last time mail was ferried across the Missouri River to be brought to Harby and Jordan some of the sacks got wet. Mrs. Hannah West, then postmaster, tells of getting sodden garments out of watery packages and draping them around in the post office to dry before delivering them to the owners.

Before the Harby post office was established, people got their mail at Lismas which was on the north bank of the Missouri in Valley County. There you could stop, put your team up for the night, sleep, eat, get your mail and whiskey.

Anyone going to Lismas got all the mail for everyone living on this point and whoever got the mail kept it at his ranch until each neighbor rode horseback after his.

People crossed the river on the ferry. The first ferry was started about 1901. Owned and operated by Bill Kirkland, it was just a flat-bottomed tub affair with ropes or cables

across the river where river made a bend, and was narrow and the current strong. It was current-propelled.

Listo and Gamas bought out Kirkland and from then on it was called Lismas Ferry: the first three letters from Listo and the last three letters of Gamas. Frank Martin bought the ferry about 1918 and later John (Frogie) Ferguson took over and put in a Power Boat which ran until the water in the Fort Peck Lake stopped all travel that way.

About 1908 Bill Turner got the contract to carry the mail from Lismas to the old John Viall place.

Harry Conklin moved in and took up a homestead at the head of Box Creek and got the post office started. Everyone around suggested a name for the post office, but none of them were chosen. When it was finally established it was called Haxby at the wish of one of the U. S. Senators in honor of the post office of the same name in England.

Mrs. Ida Conklin was the first postmaster. The government says regardless of sex all are "postmasters."

The next postmaster was Frank Goode; then DeEtta Edwards followed and served as postmaster sixteen or seventeen years until the post office closed October 31, 1959.

At Uall Heights the postmaster was Joe Pestka part of the time. Ed Wisthoff carried mail here.

The Allen post office was open but a short time--a year or two. Mr. Allen also had a little store at his home.

Phon was located on Woody Creek. M. W. Wheeler had this post office.

M. J. Capron who served as U. S. Land Commissioner on the Musselshell named the Mecaha post office. The name means "coon" in the language of one of the southern Indian tribes. It is pronounced muh-kay-haw. It was established in 1916 and Mrs. Tina L. Busic was the first postmaster. W. G. Roberts was postmaster from 1924 to 1937. Mecaha was closed in 1938. Mail was carried from Melstone to Mosby, Ross,

Mecaha and Bervie much of the time with horses. Among the mail carriers here: Joe Bagwell, Roland Matthews, Fat Mickus and Roy Gibson.

C. J. Taylor was the first postmaster at Smoky Butte. He built a dance hall on his homestead that was used as a community center. When Mr. Taylor became County Assessor in 1919, a Mr. Fitzgerald became postmaster. "Blacky" White was the next and last postmaster. Charles L. Campbell carried mail from Smoky Butte to Jordan.

Hillside post office was at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ole Johnson for many years.

Pat Nichols ran the Purewater store and post office about 1931.

The Friel post office was at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Myles P. Friel on the Big Dry.

The Wason Flats post office was at the home of Sam Wason and was established previous to 1905. It was closed for a time after the Cohagen post office was created. Later Wason came back and the post office was at his home until he left this country for good.

Mr. Turner was postmaster of the post office called McTwiggen.

Mr. and Mrs. Art Jacobson had the Taylor Creek post office east of Jordan.

There was also a post office called Sanford in the rock home of a man of that name. This post office existed during some of the time that Thomas Cruse owned the M. It was near some of his land holdings and the Sanford post office-home is mentioned in a deed that Cruse made.

The Round Butte post office was named for a butte of that name on the south bank of the Missouri north of Fuzzy Buffington's. The postmaster was Bill Hanshaw. Mail was carried from Jordan and one mail carrier was killed on this route by a man who had escaped from jail in Glasgow and had crossed the river to hide out in the river breaks.

Sid Norbury was postmaster of the Elmer post office south of Brunelda.

At Brunelda, established in 1915, Frank Bennet was the first postmaster. He was there four or five years and also published the newspaper called the Brunelda Banner. Johnnie Brain carried mail from Ingomar to Brunelda and on to Edwards until the north and south mail route was discontinued. Later postmasters were: Mrs. Lon Bechtelheimer, Mrs. Zula Lloyd Leach and Mrs. Grace Rupe. Mail came three times a week from Ingomar. After the post office closed about 1935, mail continued to come on a star route from Ingomar once a week.

The Snowbelt post office south of Edwards was open about 1916 to 1921. The postmaster was Frank Powell. He also had a store.

The post office at Edwards was established in 1914 near the old "79" headquarters after a petition by Joe Scott, Mr. and Mrs. Isa Scott, George Deniger, Dan Gibbs, Porky Reynolds and others. It was named for Johnnie Edwards, once a cowboy for the 79, who later served as State Senator from Rosebud County. At Edwards there was also a store, a newspaper, "The Edwards Times," established by Guy L. Scott, and a garage owned by Charlie Jones. He later moved to Steves Fork where he had a blacksmith shop and his wife took in travellers who wanted room and board overnight.

Alice post office was opened before 1915 and was named for the first postmaster, Mrs. Alice Hall. For a year or two the people of the community took turns going to Sand Springs once a week to bring the mail to the Alice post office. Soon there was a mail carrier, a Mr. Miller, and then Albert Glazier carried the mail from Sumatra. After Mr. and Mrs. Hall left, Earl Babcock kept the post office for several years and then it was closed, when he moved away.

There was no post office on Lone Tree Creek for several years and the many homesteaders had to go far for their mail. Mrs. Clem Smith applied for the post office when it became known that the Bruce post office on Steves Fork would be closed. She made several trips to the Bruce post office with team and buggy when the snow was deep to consult with Mrs. Stevenson, the postmaster. Mrs. Bentley, living nearby, would come care for her children, and it would take Mrs. Smith a long day to make the trip. When Mrs. Smith received word

from Washington that she was to move the post office from Bruce to her home, she was also told that the post office must be renamed.

Brusett was the name chosen from the list sent in. It was Mrs. Smith's family name. Smith also had a store at the post office which was established in 1916. Six years later the Smith family moved to South Carolina and Mrs. Ruth Bentley became postmaster and continued until July, 1946, when she moved to California where Mr. Bentley had purchased a home at Crescent City.

Mr. Oscar Edsall was the first mail carrier to carry mail from Edwards to Brusett. Other mail carriers were Corda Locke, Jack Farrier, Roy Edsall, and Earl Sheldon.

During the time Mrs. Bentley was postmaster the Butte Creek, Hazny, and Uebra post offices were discontinued and their mail was handled through the Brusett post office. At times as many as one hundred thirty-six families received mail through this office and on the various Brusett mail routes.

In 1946 Mrs. Edna Tripp Beard took the Brusett post office for a time and then Mary Cogley had it for a year; then Edna Beard had it again until her death. Cleo Bentley then served as postmaster. In December, 1948 the post office was moved near Edsall Brothers store (purchased from Baan Wille) about four miles farther north and since then Laura Ady Richards has been postmaster. There are about seventy-two patrons.

Sand Springs post office was established by the first homesteader there--Fred Allen. The name was suggested by Mrs. Norman Robertson and Norman Robertson was the unofficial mayor. Allen, Robertson, John Rich and George Otte came to this locality about the same time--1910. The land they squatted on and later homesteaded had been a part of the N range.

Fred Allen became U. S. Land Commissioner with the advent of many homesteaders. He had a store, flour mill, rooming house and dance hall. Others who served as postmasters here were Rachel Ellis, Pat Carroll, Max Keith, Mrs. George Otte, Sam Henton, Mary Neiter, Charles Stone and Joe Dutton. Allen and his little son Stanley died of flu in January, 1919.

The Butte Creek post office was established at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Kinney in 1913. People came to this post office for their mail from the mouth of Blackfoot, Billy Creek, Moonlight Creek, and Snow Creek. For a time there were about 100 patrons. Mr. John Perry brought the mail once a week to the Butte Creek post office from Jordan with team and wagon or team and sled until the post office department established a regular route. Part of the time the Teets family crossed the Missouri River and rode here for mail. Other postmasters were Mrs. Jennie Gunderson and Carl Hawkinson. When Hawkinsons moved to Jordan in 1935 the post office was closed.

The Keplerville post office down the Big Dry from Jordan was in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Perry Kepler. Later Jasper Likes had it a short time before it was closed.

The post office at Ross on the Musselshell River opened about 1904 and closed in 1935. Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Gilfeather were the postmasters. The Gilfeathers settled on the Musselshell in 1902 and Mrs. Gilfeather said she was the fifth white woman to come to the "valley" to live.

The post office "Satchel", on Tom McRae's place near Red Buttes, was open before 1905.

The Freedom post office was established in June, 1915 in the home of Magnus Riechli. It was suggested that it be named Freeman but "Freedom" was the final choice. The mail came once each week from Jordan and Jay Phelps was probably the first mail-carrier. George Loosen and Dan Erlenbush, a cousin of the Dan Erlenbush at Purewater, both carried mail to Freedom at other times. This post office was moved to the home of J. W. Freeman about 1920, where it remained until it was discontinued in 1936 or about that time. Mr. and Mrs. Harley Freeman looked after the post office when Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Freeman moved to Jordan.

Mrs. Ethel Phelps and her husband, Jay Phelps, both carried mail to Freedom several different periods. Mrs. Phelps carried it the winter of 1929-30 when it was very cold and snow was deep enough that it was necessary to use a sled and team. At that time mail was carried twice each week.

Roscoe Byrd carried the mail after the post office was discontinued in 1936 and until the route was given up in 1945.

There was a post office named Garfield for many years near the head of Sand Creek.

The Griselda post office was started in 1917. It was at the Griswold home. It has been closed several years. The mail came on a route from Cohagen.

The post office Bruce was established in the spring of 1914, two miles northeast of Victor Nelson's at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Stevenson and their two daughters. They had a dugout home but they made room for a little post office.

Hay Coulee post office began issuing mail to its patrons previous to 1919 at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Orr. They had built their home in a grassy coulee with abundant water supply--hence the name. Mail came from Frazer.

The Van Norman post office was named for Eliza William Van Norman, who came to this region from Canada before there were other settlers. He was a sheepman and was often called "Pack Rat" Van Norman for no matter where he went he seemed always to come home with some new asset, a battered stove, almost any kind of odds and ends.

This post office was established about 1910 and has moved several times. The postmasters: Hilmer Hoverson, Mr. Storm, Mr. Jenkins, Al Atwood, Grace Maxwell, Newell Hoverson (had ten years), Rusty Haight (has had fifteen years). There are two mail routes to Van Norman: one from Jordan and one from Rock Springs.

In February, 1958 the Van Norman post office burned with the Haight home. Mrs. Haight and Larry Withee got invalid Teddy Withee, and Mr. Haight, who was just home from the hospital, out safely and saved the mail and the post office supplies. Teddy went to the hospital and Mr. Haight to a hotel in town. John Kerr brought a sheep wagon over the next day and Mrs. Haight lived in it and kept the post office there until her new house was completed. When she complained to a neighbor that the potatoes froze in the sheep wagon he told her to take her potatoes to bed because that was the way all good sheepherders kept potatoes from freezing.

The Crow Rock post office was established by Mons Ringreide near mouths of Hay and Crow Rock creeks. This post office was open from April, 1914 until July, 1945. Mr.

Ringreide also sold groceries. Mail came at first from Miles City and later there was a route from Terry.

Mosby was established by a family of that name after 1902. Mr. Mosby ran a ferry across the Musselshell. Mrs. Mosby had a cafe and road ranch.

Brightview was named for Mr. and Mrs. Bright who had a little store and this post office in their home about 1915 to 1918. When the homesteaders in that neighborhood proved up on their homesteads almost everyone moved away. The school district had been bonded and a new school built for the children of the community, but people moved away before even one term of school was held.

Leedy was established by Schyler Leedy who had quite a trading business along the Missouri. Much of his goods was brought by boat from Fort Benton, miles upriver. He kept a small boat near his store to bring customers from the south side of the river to his store. The boat was sometimes summoned by people wanting this taxi service by shooting a gun into the air to attract Leedy's attention.

At Steves Fork there was no post office but a school, church, blacksmith shop and two stores, one kept by Mr. and Mrs. Walter V. Looke and the other by Mr. Ollie Edsall.

The post office Randolph, located between Jordan and Harby, was established on the homestead of Daniel W. Patterson in 1914. Mr. Patterson was the postmaster during the four years of its existence. It was named for his son Randolph, who still lives in that vicinity.

Cohagen was first opened in August, 1905. The first postmaster was Harry L. Harris and the name Cohagen, but spelled Cohagan, was the maiden name of Harris' mother. Other postmasters here have been E. H. Weimer, Ruth Parenti, and Cary Zook.

Finger Butte post office was in the home of Mr. and Mrs. William F. McCants. The mail came once each week from Jordan.

The Big Dry post office was near the mouth of the Big Dry on the Missouri. It was established in the home of Sherman and Fred McCune who operated the gasoline-powered ferry called "The Eloise" here in the years 1910-13. Fred's twin sister Jessie McCune took care of the post office and a cafe in their five-room log home. In 1914 Fred McCune moved the ferry to Oswego.

The post office Pearmond was at the mouth of Prairie Elk Creek. There was an N-N ferry here as early as 1896. There were also two saloons here called the Bloody Bucket and the Two Orphans.

It seems that there was a post office at the L U ranch in the eighties and it is to be presumed that there was a post office at Fort Peck during the time it was a territorial county seat for all the land in Montana east of the Musselshell River.

Chapter XL Newspapers

Among the homesteaders who came to this region, there were doctors, lawyers, merchants, (no chief, like in the old rhyme for counting up a child's buttons) but there were a few newspaper men and several of them published newspapers, if only briefly.

One was David L. Watson who with several other people from Beggs, Oklahoma, filed on claims on South Fork of Lodgepole in 1913. Watson established the Prairie Breeze at Sand Springs in 1915 with an old Army handpress and fifteen cases of type. Later he put in a power press run by a gasoline engine the first in the county (then Dawson) west of Glendive. The Breeze was the only paper outside of Jordan that got beyond the hand press stage.

In 1916, Watson established the Benzien Bugle to protect his "Final Proof" territory, but failed in this because Ed McRae also put a second paper there. (The fee paid by homesteaders advertising that they were making final proof on their land was the chief income of these little papers.)

Benzien had one store and a postoffice.

The two editors immediately had a red-hot newspaper fight. McRae moved his paper to Sand Springs later and continued to compete with Watson's Prairie Breeze.

July 4, 1919, was the first issue of the Jordan Times. It was printed on a Potter cylinder press for thirty-six years and in that time 1,875 editions of this paper were printed.

Older residents of Jordan will recall early morning editions of this newspaper on their doorsteps on a few occasions. One of them being when Jordan became the permanent county seat of Garfield County in a four-sided race with Jordan, Edwards, Sand Springs and Cohagen competing.

A special edition also came out when the south half of Jordan was flooded at the time the Big Dry Dam went out.

Walden's Weekly started at Sand Springs by F. W. Walden in October, 1921, was published but a short time. Carlos Whittle had sold the Sand Springs Star and its subscription list to the Jordan Times just a month before.

The Sand Springs News absorbed the Benzien News. Both were edited by Ed McRae. The copy for May 18, 1918, was Sand Springs News Vol. 1 No. 10, and also The Benzien News Vol. 2 No. 27.

The news that it contained was typical of the time. There was a sale bill for an auction of things donated to the Lodge Pole Auxiliary of the Red Cross.

Many of the homesteaders were off at war. On Saturday night there had been a wrestling match between Lawrence Cooper and Charley Newton.

Of mail routes there were four: Henry Krieder carried mail to Sand Springs from Sumatra three days each week, a distance of forty miles. Alternate days he took outgoing mail to Sumatra. E. O. Nyquist carried mail to Dilo via Benzien and Tindall to Sand Springs and back between the hours of five A. M. and 8 P. M. Mail was also carried from Bruce to Sand Springs and back to Bruce three days each week. A. Karhiaho carried mail from Brightview to Sand Springs and back to Brightview on two days each week.

Many people were in this year, 1918, making final proof on their homesteads; some were securing loans on the land just proved up on.

The Sand Springs Star was now the only paper being published in Dawson county west of Edwards and the publisher certified that his legitimate list of subscribers was 441.

Mr. McRae mentioned in his ad, as representative of the Banking Corporation of Montana that a number of borrowers in Western Dawson County had signed farm mortgages in the past, waited some months before getting their money and were charged interest from the date of the mortgages, while the company he represented only charged from the date they mailed the check from the Lewistown office.

The Sand Springs Garage advertised itself as a Car Hospital. There were a few news items about the progress of the war and a blank for you to fill out and send in if you desired to help build the proposed Great Northern Railway.

Frank Bennet who was the first postmaster at Brunelda, also published a newspaper, the Brunelda Banner.

Arthur M. Hengel published the Jordan Gazette for a time in the twenties.

The Jordan Gazette was founded by Joseph P. Parker in 1913 in a log building west of Tollefson's saloon. Parker was a fine printer and had the best printed handset and hand printed newspaper in the state.

Harry Sankey and Butte Tipton printed the Jordan Times and the Jordan Tribune, respectively, for several years and kept a newspaper feud going. A scantily populated area like this can scarcely support two newspapers but the spirit of competition makes better newspapers.

The only paper now published in Garfield County is the Jordan Tribune, successor to the Jordan Times. For many years this paper was published by different members of the Larson family of Circle. It is now published by Hardie J. Sickles.

The Edwards Times was established by Guy L. Scott about 1914.

Chapter XII Organizations

It is difficult to keep organizations going in a thinly settled area and many communities have none although some schoolhouses serve as community centers for church, elections, Sunday School and Bible School, and dances. Schoolhouses thus used for one or more of these activities are: Spring Creek, Flat Creek, Dilo, Snow Creek, Brusett, Four Corners, Sand Springs.

The Baptist Church at Steves Fork is a community center. Community halls at Mosby, Ross, and Fairview have been much used.

The first Fairview Hall was made of logs by the first homesteaders. It was used as the schoolhouse for many years. After it blew down a frame schoolhouse was built on the school section west of John Murnion's home but the people of the neighborhood missed their gathering place and repaired Old Fairview, and it was used several years until the New Fairview Hall was moved to a site on the corner of Lawrence Swanser's place.

In early-day Garfield County two women's clubs were kept going for many years by steadfast members and provided much pleasure in their communities.

One, the Green Trail Club, named for the county road which ran through that neighborhood was organized in 1925 by women who lived along the Big Dry. From a small number it grew to an enrollment of thirty-four women who met once every two weeks in the afternoon during warm weather; and all day meetings during the winter when husbands attended too.

The club bought phonograph records and song books for the two schools nearby; bought lumber, and the husbands made picnic tables for community use.

During the dry years of the thirties, a good many of the members moved away. With the war and gas rationing and other restrictions the seven members remaining decided to drop the club in 1942 or 1943.

While there was a county agent, the Green Trail Club was enrolled for home demonstration work.

These were the members: Mesdames Herman Wagner, W. W. Likes, Harvey Likes, Jasper Likes, Mel Lanphere, Fred Lanphere, Judson Vannoy, Gulick Fadness, Hubert Medlock, Roy Rose, Colin Rose, U. Graves, Worth Bateman, Gilbert McKee, D. W. Battin, C. D. Capwell, Perry Kepler, John Osborn, Walter Barker, Clarence Hiesel, Bert Armbruster, Harry Thomas, Wilbur Thomas, E. Fogle, F. Nergaard, Oscar Hunter, Wesley Grant, Emil Gagnon, Royal Symonds, Ray Drennan, Mike Zimmerman, William Uhl, Miss Margaret Montgomery and Addie Lamoureux.

Another homemakers ' club that flourished for many years was one on South Fork of Lodgepole in the Tindall neighborhood. Mrs. Lufborough, and Mrs. Tindall were active in this group but no list of members is available.

Postscript to Chapter XII The Texas Trail

Pat Davis who came up from Oklahoma in the eighties and spent the rest of his life in this area as a cowboy and sheep herder was burned to death in a freak accident when a team hooked to a hayrake ran away with him at the Doctor Battin place or somewhere near there.



Ira Howell who lived across from Osborn's on The Dry had come up from Texas with a cattle herd. He loved to fiddle for dances and said that as a kid he had fiddled from Tennessee to Texas when his parents emigrated there.

Chapter XLII Jet Fuel Refinery

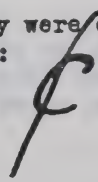
The Jet Fuel Refinery was organized in 1952 and is a partnership of William M. Hanlon and York-Montana Oil Company. It was organized as a means of marketing high gravity crude oil from the Cat Creek East Dome Field. Today the average crude run per day is 500 barrels. A large share of this crude is purchased from the Delphia, Ivanhoe, and Stensvad oil fields near Malstone, Montana.

The products refined are: Gasoline, Jet Fuel JP-4, stove oil, Diesel and heavy fuel oil. At present the Jet Fuel is delivered to the Glasgow Air Force Base, Glasgow, Montana. The heavy fuel oil is marketed in the Twin Cities.

Chapter XLIII The

The  outfit was located on the Musselshell River. They were running cattle here before 1885. They ran about 30,000 head of cattle; shipped from Billings to Chicago; and furnished a few Indian tribes with beef on contract. They had three roundup wagons with a foreman for each outfit. At one time Jim Cox was the big boss for the whole outfit which was owned by Ryan Brothers of Kansas City. Con Kennedy had been a foreman for this outfit. 

Chapter XLIV The Superior Cattle Company

The Superior Cattle Company were operating on the Big Dry by 1885. They branded thus: 

Chapter XLV The Long X

The Reynolds Brothers' Long X came north from Wyoming in 1885 and located west of the Kildeer Mountains in North Dakota. Their ranch here was sold to Converse Cattle Company in 1897.

The first Long X ranch was established in northern Texas by the Reynolds family. It was from this county that the very first trail herd started north. The Long X built up a Montana ranch north of the Missouri River in Phillips County. Norval Wallace was manager of this ranch from 1901 until he started running cattle for himself on the south side of the river. The Long X home ranch in Texas is over one hundred years old, having been established in 1859.

Chapter XLVI--The HV Ranch

Tow's HV ranch was established prior to 1886 with headquarters on the Little Dry at the mouth of Sand Creek. In the brand book for that year their range is given as the Big Dry and Sand Creek forty miles above its mouth.

Their road brand was an "L" reversed or an upside down "L", also reversed.

Chapter XLVII The Long S

Herron, a southerner, and owner of the Long S brand, had 3,000 cattle trailed in near the mouth of the Musselshell. This was probably in early 1900's.

Chapter XLVIII Natural Resources

Natural resources of this big dry country are, first, its wonderful, sun-cured grass, rich in protein and minerals. Come several dry years and a myriad of grasshoppers; then our grass languishes; cattle and sheep have to be sold because the range is being overgrazed. But prairie grasses make an amazing comeback once the drouthy period is over.

Wild game is usually plentiful. There was a period during homesteading days when there were few deer and not many antelope except in the gumbo. Now throughout the whole area there is an abundance of deer--both white-tail and mule, and many antelope. There are a few big horn mountain sheep on the Fort Peck Game Preserve.

There is a great deal of lignite coal but little of it is mined. At Mosby there are several producing oil wells. Much of the area has been explored by seismograph crews for oil companies.

Cedar, pine and fir found in Musselshell-Missouri area do not have commercial value but are of much help to local people for building and fencing.

The water supply is more reliable since many stock reservoirs have been made and many deep water wells drilled.

From John Murnion's ranch five miles west of Jordan to the mouth of the Big Dry there are many artesian wells. There are also artesian wells on the Musselshell and the Little Dry. At Angela, some distance south of the post office there is a hot water well.

Gold has been searched for in many places here but little found. There was a gold rush of short duration in the Haxby country in 1894. More than fifty gold mining claims were filed. No gold was found except once a small gold nugget was found in the mud and long hair on the face of a steer that was butchered. It was thought that the steer had been rooting his face in the mud on a sandbar.

Between 1902 and 1904 bighorn mountain sheep and deer were killed in the breaks along the Missouri River and were hauled by four horse teams to Miles City. The meat was sold in cafes in Miles City and Glendive and even as far away as New York City. Arthur Jordan and a Mr. Snell were at the head of this enter prise.

As late as 1911 "Doc" and "Baldy" Williams killed two mountain sheep.

The bighorn mountain sheep that were numerous here at that time were often victims of lung worms and when the Fish and Game Department made a planting of mountain sheep in the breaks of the Missouri River in the Fort Peck Game Refuge, they brought in a different species from a Colorado Game Range, that is more resistant to lung worms. They are from the Tarryall herd.

A release pasture, which forced these animals to stay in one area, have lambs, and get acclimated, was built by Montana Fish and Game Commission. The pasture was first stocked in 1947 with sixteen bighorns. An effort was made to rid the pasture of predatory animals. The bighorns were kept in the enclosure for three years; then part of them were released and in 1952 the rest were turned loose. It is thought that most of the bighorns remained in that vicinity. One was found dead in the Musselshell country. Some cross bred with Sidney Hauso's sheep. He had thirteen long haired lambs in 1953.

The Fish and Game Department estimated in 1953 that there were 75 bighorns in this herd. Anyone who has ever traveled this area knows that an accurate count on any wild life is not possible.

It was here in the breaks of Snow Creek that the last Audubon bighorn sheep was killed in 1915 and this famous sub-species became extinct. (Source: Montana Wildlife. Winter, 1953.)

Seining of "rough" fish in Fort Peck Lake began in June, 1955, at Rock Creek in McCone County. During 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960 seining operations have been carried on at Devil's Creek in Garfield County by a commercial fisherman. The seine net used is 1,400 feet long and will hold several thousand pounds of fish. The fish that are taken in this way are carp, buffalo, drum, ling and sturgeon. By December of 1958 it was reported that 130,000 pounds of fish had been taken out of the lake by commercial fishermen.

Trapping and shooting of fur bearing animals is very little compared with the period 1830-1880 when buffalo, beaver and other fur bearing animals were numerous. In 1954 more than 14,000 jack rabbit skins were purchased in Jordan.

Chapter XLIX Weather

Weather Statistics have been faithfully recorded by the United States Weather Bureau in eastern Montana only since 1878. The average rainfall for the first 69 years, 1878-1946, was only .2 inches. The first three years of this period were those with by far the heaviest precipitation and all records available show that range conditions were of the best.

In 1878 two hunters with scythes cut two hayrack loads of wild bluestem hay in one day, and had more than seven tons stacked as the result of one week's work.

The years 1881 to 1904 had average or above average amounts of rainfall and of these years, the early 80's were the cattleomania years.

The years 1905-1916, were average or above in rainfall except for two years. For the period the rainfall was more than 5% above the average. This was a period of prosperity. Ranges were better. Much land was homesteaded and in 1909, The Enlarged Homestead Act was passed and each homesteader might acquire 320 acres instead of 160 acres.

The weather of Montana, especially the weather of dryland eastern Montana, is the greatest factor in whether we prosper or just get by. It is far more important to us than the stock market.

When we have a dry summer, with poor range, little hay and short grain crops and then it is followed by a long, hard winter with much snow or/ and ice, our troubles begin. If hay has to be hauled in, the condition of the roads may be a most disturbing factor. Many country roads are only worthy of the name in fair weather.

Many farmers and ranchers now have their own small snowblows or bulldozer blades to plow out roads, feed lots and haystacks, but winters like the recent one of 1958-9 made it necessary often to require the help of the county road equipment to clear roads into ranches where hay is needed.

Mail carriers were often unable to cover their complete route and those areas with telephone service found it most helpful this last winter.

PRECIPITATION RECORD

BRUSETT, GARFIELD COUNTY, MONTANA

ELEVATION 3,122 feet

| YEAR: | Jan. | Feb. | Mar. | Apr. | May | June |
|-------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 1943 | .87 | 1.12 | .89 | 1.44 | 1.12 | 6.46 |
| 1944 | .04 | .45 | 1.44 | .55 | 3.26 | 8.56 |
| 1945 | .82 | .12 | 1.39 | .50 | 1.29 | 3.40 |
| 1946 | .21 | .27 | .51 | .79 | 2.53 | 2.16 |
| 1947 | .26 | .12 | .40 | .97 | 1.01 | 2.51 |
| 1948 | .67 | .34 | .27 | .33 | 1.09 | 5.21 |
| 1949 | .51 | .23 | .71 | .07 | .50 | 1.20 |
| 1950 | .26 | .61 | .96 | .36 | .43 | 4.67 |
| 1951 | .14 | .46 | .30 | .69 | .95 | 3.05 |
| 1952 | .38 | .48 | .56 | .09 | 1.63 | 1.93 |
| 1953 | .54 | .49 | .96 | 2.13 | 4.75 | 3.72 |
| 1954 | .66 | .33 | 1.53 | .70 | 1.81 | 3.63 |
| 1955 | .21 | .25 | .24 | 2.42 | 2.92 | 1.68 |
| 1956 | .08 | .12 | .21 | .11 | 1.77 | .93 |
| 1957 | .58 | .43 | .24 | .99 | 1.25 | 2.00 |
| 1958 | .17 | .35 | .48 | .99 | .01 | 2.47 |

| YEAR: | July | Aug. | Sept. | Oct. | Nov. | Dec. | Annual |
|-------|------|------|-------|------|------|------|--------|
| 1943 | 1.53 | 1.73 | .09 | 2.04 | .24 | .11 | 17.64 |
| 1944 | .93 | 2.31 | .60 | .02 | .44 | .31 | 18.94 |
| 1945 | .85 | .96 | 1.74 | .67 | 1.02 | 1.08 | 13.88 |
| 1946 | 2.50 | .46 | 4.00 | 1.63 | .16 | .50 | 15.72 |
| 1947 | 1.09 | 3.76 | 1.13 | .21 | .21 | .31 | 11.98 |
| 1948 | 3.05 | 2.66 | .39 | T | .87 | .35 | 15.23 |
| 1949 | 1.95 | .03 | .59 | .58 | .03 | .49 | 6.89 |
| 1950 | 2.52 | 1.16 | 2.17 | .99 | .56 | .37 | 15.06 |
| 1951 | 1.95 | 1.89 | 1.55 | 1.11 | .48 | .95 | 13.52 |
| 1952 | 1.03 | .66 | 1.23 | .13 | .08 | .37 | 8.57 |
| 1953 | 1.45 | .24 | .82 | 1.89 | .11 | .57 | 17.67 |
| 1954 | 1.12 | 4.92 | .56 | .68 | .08 | .01 | 15.03 |
| 1955 | 1.62 | .41 | .27 | .33 | .27 | .13 | 10.75 |
| 1956 | 2.38 | 2.54 | .24 | T | .91 | .24 | 9.53 |
| 1957 | .75 | 1.65 | .86 | .73 | .14 | T | 9.64 |
| 1958 | 2.81 | .33 | .34 | 1.68 | .81 | .16 | 10.60 |

Average Rainfall 13.12 (plus) inches

Garfield County Valuations

In 1919, the year Garfield County was created from the western part of Dawson County, the assessed valuation of this new county was \$13,910,272.

| | |
|---------------------|--------|
| No. Horses Assessed | 14,469 |
| No. Cattle Assessed | 19,722 |
| No. Sheep Assessed | 50,407 |

In 1934, a dry year, there were 103,000 sheep assessed.

In 1935

| | |
|---------------------|--------|
| No. Horses Assessed | 12,070 |
| No. Cattle Assessed | 25,828 |
| No. Sheep Assessed | 96,000 |

Total Assessed Valuation for the County was \$11,237,434.

In 1939

| | |
|---------------------|--------|
| No. Horses Assessed | 4,554 |
| No. Cattle Assessed | 7,357 |
| No. Sheep Assessed | 45,271 |

Total Assessed Valuation for the County was \$5,339,826.

In 1958

| | |
|---------------------|--------|
| No. Horses Assessed | 2,154 |
| No. Cattle Assessed | 34,990 |
| No. Sheep Assessed | 65,840 |

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------|
| Total Assessed Valuation | \$10,696,876 |
| Taxable Valuation | 3,067,747. |



(Permission Josephine Ginther)

Percy Williams on ranch home north of Jordan. He settled here in 1897, came to Montana from Scotland; his daughter carries on his ranching operations.

Jack Milroy came from Scotland in 1899; first worked on Cherry Creek, then settled on Taylor Creek where he ran sheep.



(Permission Frances Hauso)



Gasoline Plow
Niedringhaus Ranch
Oswego, Montana
1907

(Permission
Mrs. Jessie
Walton)

Machinists'
Temporary
Camp
Niedringhaus
Ranch, Oswego
1907

(Permission
Mrs. Jessie
Walton)





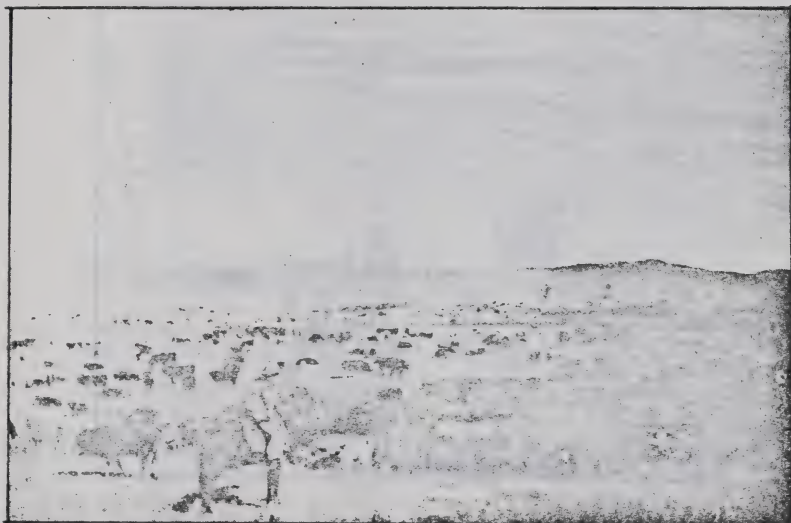
(Permission Lois Moore)

Historic Crow Rock where battle took place in 1869 when Sioux Indians attacked thirty Crow warriors who had sought refuge on this flat hill with natural rock fortifications. The Sioux killed all thirty of the Crows but fourteen of their party were killed also and eighteen more were wounded.



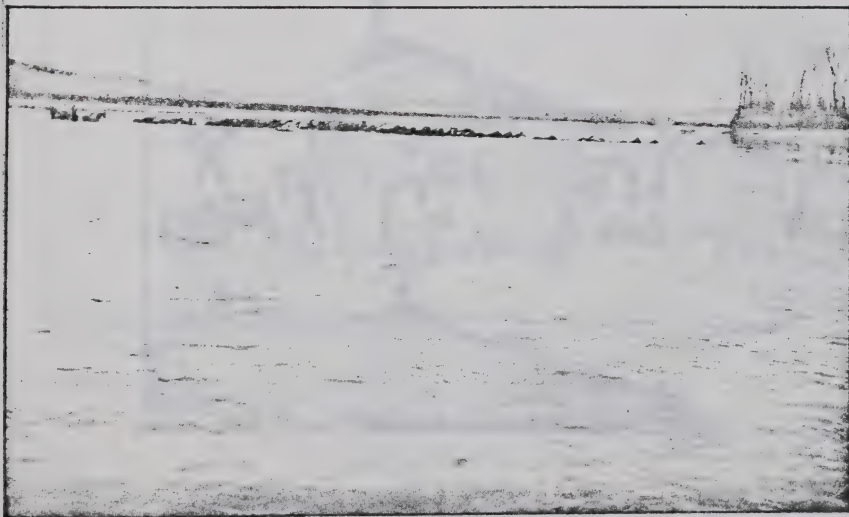
Ferry at Lisnas--waiting for landing to be repaired
King and Lawrence Edwards wading
(Permission of DeEtta Edwards)

CK Cattle Herd Big Dry--Prairie Elk Country



(Permission of Mrs. Jessie Walton, Fort Peck)

Horses Swimming the Missouri River near the Town ranch.
(Permission of John Town--Bridger, Montana)



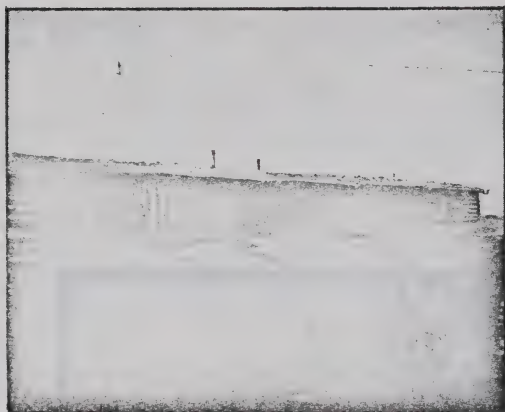
C K Round Up Wagons Climbing a Hill, the Pilot in Front



C K Camp Outfit and C K Cowboys



(Permission of Mrs. Jessie Walton, Fort Peck)



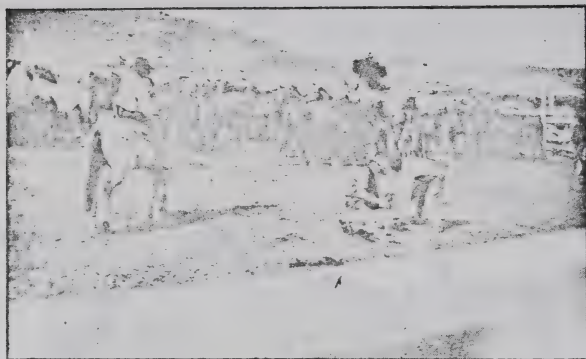
N-N Ranch Buildings in 1891. This was a year when they were paying taxes on 100,000 cattle.



Winners of Long Distance Horse Race from Billings to Miles City - June 1947.
1st, 2nd, 3rd place. First, Merle Helyer riding "Bucky", horse owned by Clem Larson, Sand Spring.



Branding Time at the C.B.C. - 1935 Clem Larson on rope horse. The horse stands like this while branding is being done.



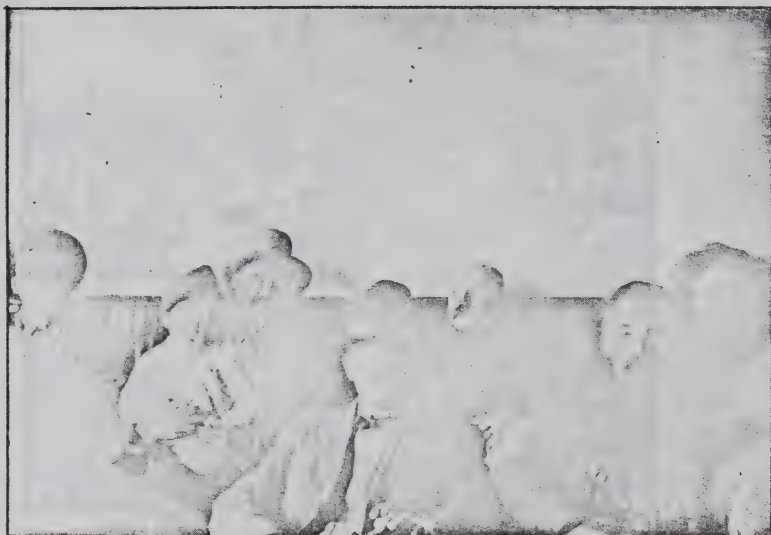
Branding at George Edwards' ranch at Haxby. Edwards in white hat. Edwards long a sparring partner for his brother Frank Gotch, world champion wrestler, quit to ranch in the Haxby Country soon after 1900.



Old Building at UL washing away after Fort Peck Dam filled up.



Larson's Buckey, Now Retired.



(Taken 1904 or later. Permission Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Allen)
 Left to right: Charlie Oliver, Rufus Oliver, Jim Swisher,
 Charlie Marr, George Donaldson, Bill Cherry, Nigger Bob
 Leavitt.



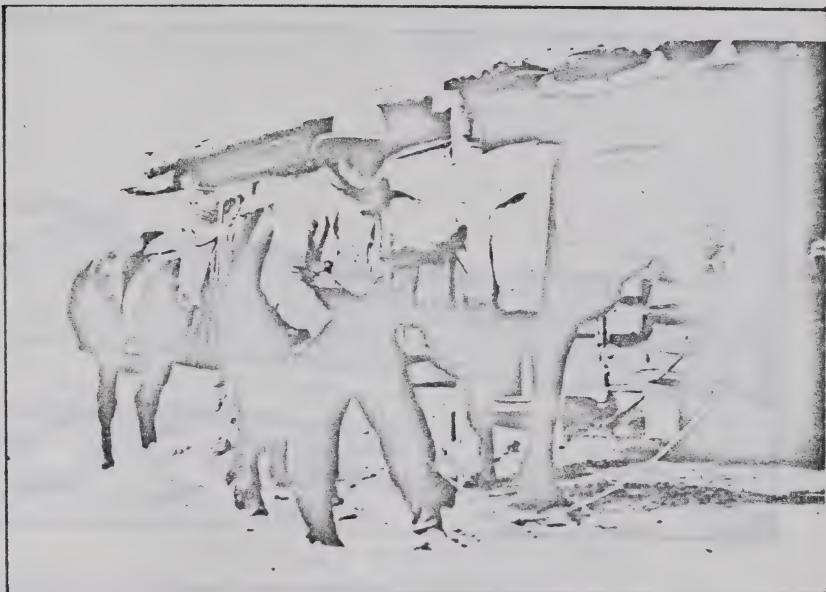
Main Street in Jordan in 1920 First
 Motorized Freight in Garfield County.



N-N Ambulance Wagon 1891 - on Poplar Creek, South Side of Missouri. This wagon made five round trips to Texas, coming up with trail herd in the spring; then taking remuda back to Texas.



Old Ambulance wagon was still in use in 1932. Taken in front of old N-N ranch house. Frank Kincaid driving.

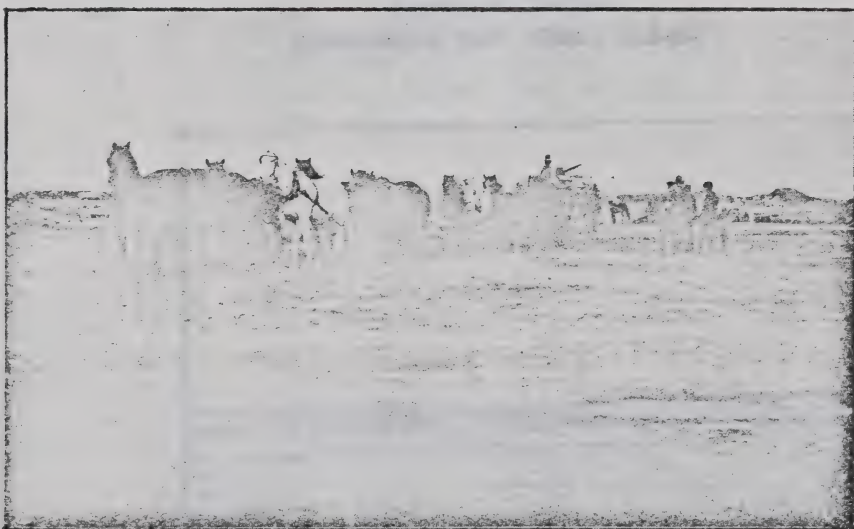
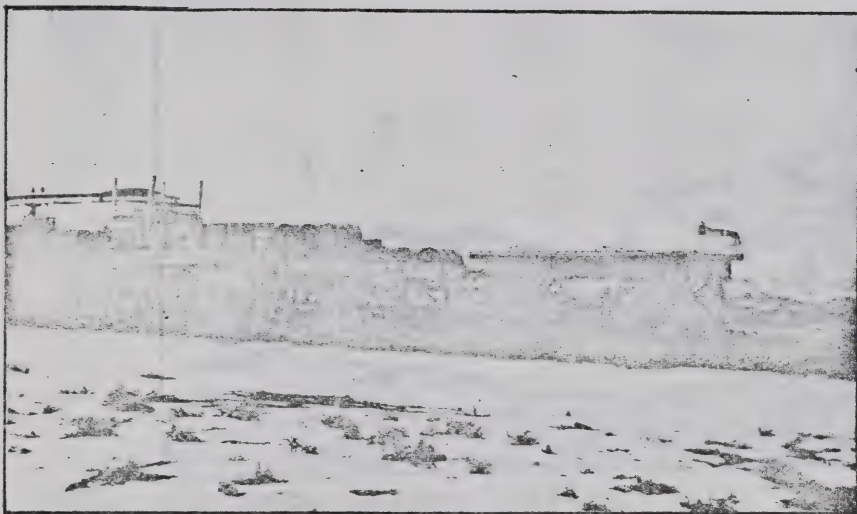


Tex Alford in 1934
At mouth of Musselshell
After return from 30th

Anniversary of Stockgrowers
in Miles City.
(Permission of John Town)



N-N Roundup Wagon
(Permission Mamie McKeever)



First motorized freight outfit into Jordan
1920

(Permission Mrs. Charles Allen)

"Maggie" Allen's string team

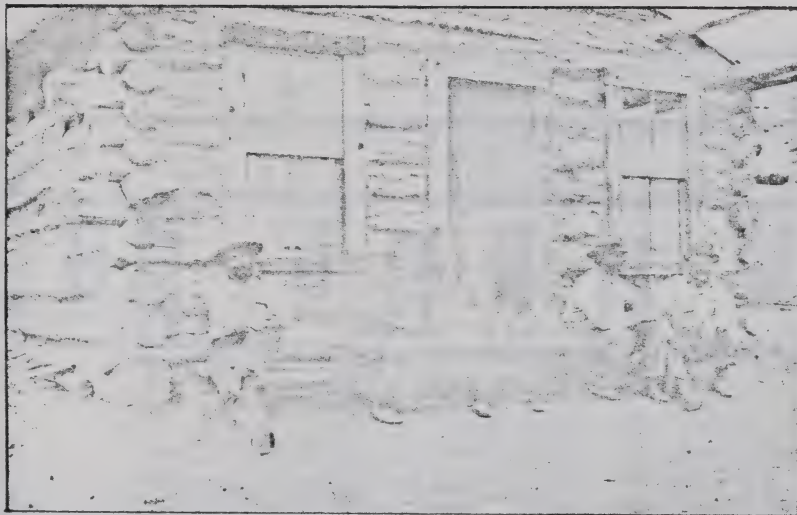
(Permission Mrs. Chas. Allen)



79 Roundup camp on Bear Creek
North of Jordan
(Permission Mrs. Chas. Allen)



Jet Refinery at Mosby--only manufacturing
plant in Garfield County
(Permission William M. Hanlon)



Post Office Fort Musselshell
about 1913. Seated left to
right: George Custer, Del
Bun, a trapper; John Peppennick,
Bud Secrest, John Mickus.
Standing: Walter Fletcher, P.M.
(Permission of John Town)



Wolf Point in 1906
(Permission Jessie Walton)



N-N Bunkhouse in Later Days
(Permission Mamie McKeever)



CK camp--Nigger Bob, second from left.
(Permission Jessie Walton)

John F. and Cora Trotter
(Permission Elizabeth
Weeding)



Pupils of Butte Creek School
1933



Mrs. Charles Allen and
Pupils en route to school.
(Permission Amy Crane)



Above: Harve and George Tavlör at their home in Seven Blackfoot. Now home of J. E. Stanton. This place was settled on before 1892 by a sheepman named Broadbent--later Kramers lived here.
(Permission Susie Huston)

Below: Duncan MacLachlan Came here with L. A. Swanser from Maiden, Montana where he had been a freighter. Homesteaded in Blackfoot.
(Permission Susie Huston)



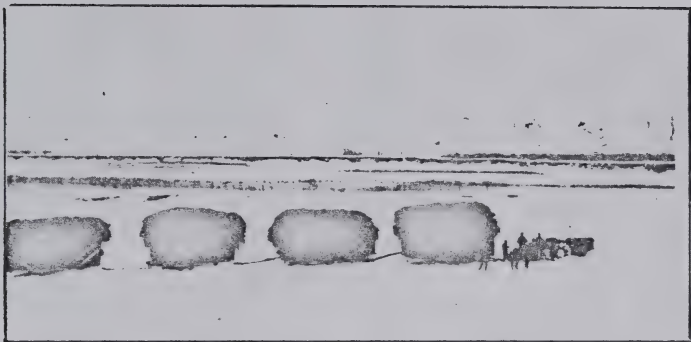
Del Hubbard house on
divide between Snow
Creek and Missouri.
Now part of Wilton
Buffington Estate.
(Permission Chas.
Allen)



Clem Smart
(Permission Susie
Huston)



Charles (Patch-eye)
Stuart, son of
Granville Stuart
(Permission Susie
Huston).



Burley Sanford moving hay on Missouri River ice from Town Brothers ranch to his ranch at Leedy, about thirty miles in 1936.

Town Brothers moving horses across Missouri with trail sanded.

Town Brothers moving cattle across Missouri
(Permission John Town)



UL Ranch on north side of Missouri
Town Brothers ranch on south side
of Missouri. (Permission John Town)



The first of the two is a
 photograph of a small building
 with a chimney, and the second
 is a drawing of a small building



Clem Larson's Freight Team except Lead Team
George Otte, Sr. (Permission Mrs. Clem Larson)



A. P. Feck

"Dad" Hickman

Both men came up from Texas
with trail herds.

(Permission John Town)



Wild Cat Jack Ginther, Freighting for Baldwin 1913
(Permission of Josephine Ginther)

Was this the first house in the Big Dry country?



Thirty years ago it was a tumbled-in heap of logs on a creek that emptied into Lodgepole half a mile below. A spring of good water flowed nearby. Completely surrounded by hills, with good water and plentiful wood supply, it was said to have been the hide-out of Kid Curry's gang.





Ferry at old Fort Musselshell about 1915
(Permission of John Town)



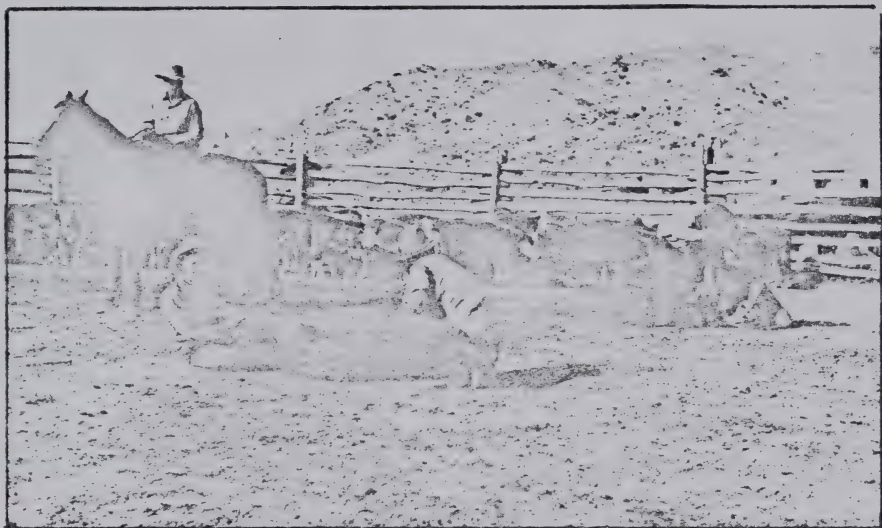
Ferry "Eloise" at Fort Peck
(Permission Jessie Walton)



C B C HORSE OUTFIT COWBOYS 1935
(Permission of Clem Larson)



C B C HORSE OUTFIT REMUDA IN ROPE CORRAL
(Permission of Clem Larson)



Branding Cattle
(Permission John Town.)



Miles Wallace and Billy Porter
(permission of Ida McPhail)



(Permission of Shirley Bridges)



Rear View of Headquarter Ranch of N-N in 1894
(Permission of Shirley Bridges)

Sand Creek Shearing Pens
about 1912



Charles F. (Fatty) Schultz managed these shearing pens for many years for Ivory Brackett and his brother-in-law, Jim Donaldson. Schultz had been a signal man for the Army and had been stationed at Fort Maginnis.

(Permission Mrs. Chas. Allen)



Garfield County Horse Roundup
At Fay Buffington ranch

(Permission Mrs. Alex Crane)

Branding on Hell Creek
(Permission Mrs. Alex Crane)



Cattle in for Water
Fay Buffington ranch
Permission Mrs. Alex Crane)

The dining room at the N-N ranch in 1897
A. W. and Edger Niedringhaus seated.



(Permission of Shirley Bridges)

Shoeing horse at the N-N in 1892
Jim McNaney is second from left.



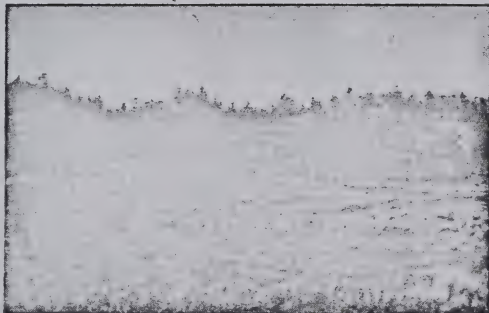
(Permission of
Shirley Bridges)



CK camp. Left to right: The cook: Bill Fallon, Buck Taylor, Dr. Baker; and bandaged foot of Bert Ruby, known as "T-Bone", whose gunshot wound Dr. Baker had just dressed. Picture taken at Charlie Marrs place, three or four miles east of Jordan.

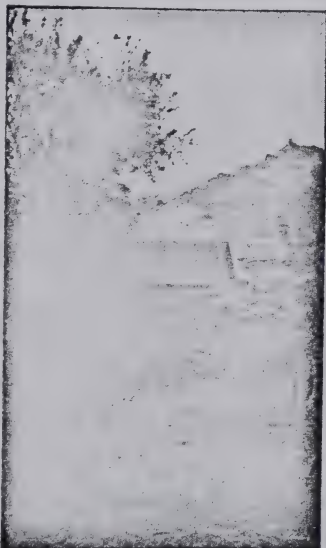
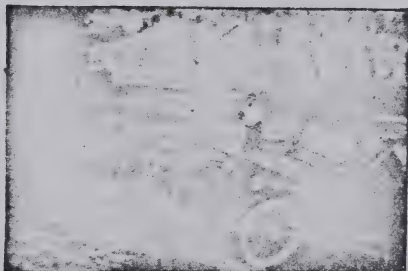
CK Cowboys in 1915; Down the Dry from Jordan. Left to right: Joe Watson, rep for the Matadors; T. L. Green, Doc Baker, making a "house call"; Indian Bill Gaddy, Frank Wright, Jeff Nix, Bill Nation, Scotty Daniels, horse wrangler; Bill Crowder, wagon boss; Buck Taylor, Walt Sibley, Mrs. Charlie Marrs.

(Courtesy Whit Newland of Jordan)



The homestead cabin of Bill Nation on Crooked Creek.

Charlie Marrs and his Model T get an assist from a cowpony on their way up the hilly road from Bill Nation's.



"Old" George Currey's home on Crooked Creek. He was father of Claude Currey; grandfather of Jack and George Currey.

(Permission of Whit Newland)



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other side of the paper.



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other side of the paper.

with the same material as the
other side of the paper.





Dan Levalley, born in 1847, came to the Big Dry in the late seventies as a buffalo hunter--stayed to ranch. In the thirties Mr. Levalley had \$110,000 in one bank. When he was told that the bank would the next day close its doors, and if he wished to get any money out, he should be about it; he drew about \$50.00 out and paid what he owed around town. Truly he had what it takes to be a pioneer. He died at ninety.



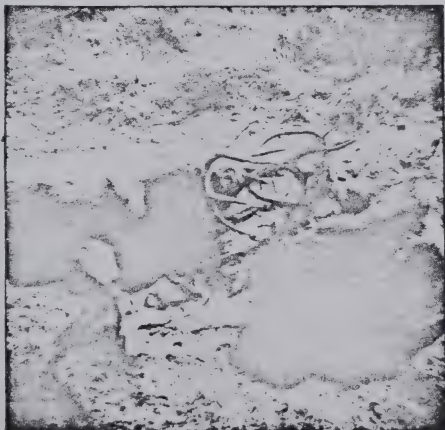
July 1948
Ada Uhl & granddaughter,
Mary Mahoney



Green Trail Club, 1940
Mrs. Nellie Woods on left
Mrs. Jasper Likes
Mrs. Perry Kepler,
Mrs. Dick Canwell,
Mrs. John Osborn,
Mrs. Mike Zimmerman
Mrs. Ada Uhl



Mrs. Lillian Smith, for many years a resident of the Lodgepole-Musselshell Valley.
(Courtesy Mrs. Johnny Hill)



Fort Peck Lake is a favorite fishing and picnicking spot. This lake has more than 500 miles of shoreline, not all of it accessible by car. Pat James and Jerry Barnes.
(Courtesy Pat James)

A whitetail and a mule deer who locked horns and fought to the death on the Slim Hayes place where Coleman Murnion now lives.

(Permission Pat James)

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(Permission Gina Foster)
Dr. and Mrs. B. C. Farrand, residents of Jordan since 1925. Much of this time Dr. Farrand has been the only doctor in an area comprising more than 5,000 square miles.

(Permission Monte Lee Jabs)
Big Dry Country landscape--summer fallowed field on Albert H. Kruse farm. Howard and Clifford Highland in foreground.



